THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER.

THE INDO-EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENCE records the death of the Very Rev. Monsignior Goiran, said to have been the oldest missionary not only of Bengal but of North India. He was one of the missionaries that were sent out to Calcutta in 1854 under the guidance of the Right Reverend Dr. St. Leger, the first Vicar-Apostolic. His superiors honoured him with the high eulogium of being "a youth of the best hopes," a commendation which his after career in Bengal fully verified. Our contemporary gives a sketch of his life, full of instances of pious zeal, earnest devotion to humanity, and noble self-sacrifice.

MORE DEATHS in the ranks of the Catholics are reported: Cardinal Riario Sforza, Archbishop of Naples; the Right Rev. Dr. Moriarty, Bishop of Kerry; the Very Rev. Dr. Wilkinson, President of Ushaw College near Durham, the oldest member of the Society of Jesus, aged 95; the Rev. Fr. John McElroy, at Frederick U. S.; and a well known Catholic authoress, Miss Cecilia Caddell.

THE INDIAN REPRESENTATIVE, which is an organ of the East Indian community of Madras, makes the following remarks, on their condition:

"The East Indian class is undoubtedly the victim of over-population. Indeed it is now a pauperised class. The general labor-market is fearfully overstocked in this country and the East Indian class is unable to compete in that market because from its habits of living its labor is dearer. A small section of it only therefore, the fittest to survive according to the Darwinian idea, can live and thrive without being dependent upon others. But the larger section, made up somewhat as we know from those who are *Eurasians* only in name, goes on multiplying recklessly and the end is that we see pauperism, crime, and worse, going on around our eyes. If the religious and benevolent societies of this city were doubled they could not above the difficulty before them. The cheapness of the labor-market is at the bottom of the mischief; and when in the face of this, the East Indian population goes on increasing, the result is inevitable. The East Indian population has gone to the wall more rapidly than it ought, because it has not taken to the soil: because it has persisted in being a floating population, that is a population looking out for special employment, full of the elements of chance, for keeping it alive."

Yes, the mischief is due to the non-appreciation by the East Indians of the dignity of labor. They aspire to the position of Captains of Labor, a position, which does not fall to the lot of every body.

WE LEARN from the *Indian Tribune* that Maharani Surnomoye, with her wonted liberality, has made arrangements during the continuance of the scarcity in the North-Western Provinces at her *Kunja* at Brindaban to feed fifty Paupers every day, in addition to the sixteen that receive their food daily in ordinary times. The Maharani's Agent at Radhakoond has also received instructions to feed twenty-five poor people every day.

AS PLEVNA is now the centre of action in Turkey, the following particulars regarding it will no doubt be read with interest. Plevna contains a population of 17,000 souls, with 19 mosques, two churches, 1,600 houses inhabited by Mussulmans, and 1,400 by Christians. It is traversed by a stream, the Tusevica, in which the Grivica falls. The place, however, possesses neither trade nor manufactories. The only remarkable edifice is the civil hospital established by Midhat Pasha; it is constructed on the model of the finest establishments of the kind, and the visitor is struck with order and cleanliness which reigns in the wards. Archæological souvenirs are rare in the towns; there is, however, in the Church of St. Peter an altar of which the basis is formed of a fragment of a column with its capital of Roman origin.

WE READ that at Leeds the idea of spreading a sheet in the public street for passers-by to throw in their "mites," by way of contribution to the Famine Fund, has proved itself quite a success. This is the Indian plan of collecting alms at sacred ghats on occasions of religious festivals, particularly bathing festivals.

THE CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE has an interesting article on suicide in the Army. The writer says: "*In the armies of all nations, moreover, the ratio of soldiers who commit suicide is infinitely higher than among the civil population. In Great Britain, the existing proportion amongst males of similar ages, show that three soldiers annually destroy* themselves for every one civilian, while in India the number is *one third* higher than in the United kingdom." What is the cause of this difference? Is it ennui and consequently a harder drink-crave?

TUESDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER.

A SOMEWHAT EXCITED controversy is going on in Madras on the subject of the exclusion of the Native Agency in the administration of Famine Relief. We make the following extract from a letter addressed to the Bellary *Spectator*:

Any one who has seen the haste with which His Grace the Duke indented on other provinces for these costly articles, thinking no doubt, that they were the best antidote for this dreadful famine, would have been led to think very meanly indeed of the poor drudging Native officials, and would have come to the conclusion that these heaven-born civilians alone were the fittest people for this trying season. I needn't say what your readers will think of them, after they have once gone through the figures I give below, to corroborate my statement; how undeserved has been the praise accorded to the European officers on the one hand, and the censure passed on the Native Agency on the other. If you will take the trouble to turn to the 8th page of the official papers relating to relief Reports for the week ending 15th September 1877, you will find the following statement of amount spent on Relief-works.

UNDER EUROPEAN AGENCY.

	Estimated Amt.	*Amt. spent.*
Adoni ...	5,57,641	18,19,549
Hindupur ...	35,950	1,81,960
Madakeera ...	14,320	3,22,133
Bellary ...	1,37,080	12,25,292

UNDER NATIVE AGENCY.

	Estimated Amt.	*Amt. spent.*
Anantapur ...	1,24,869	2,95,210
Hospet ...	4,10,905	2,95,898
Kudligi ...	4,74,258	3,56,627
Harpanhally ...	3,35,646	2,48,642
Hudajully ...	2,10,038	4,01,440

You will easily see from the above figures, that in Adoni under Mr. Oldham, who is said to have grown old in experience in the latest Bengal famine, more than three times the amount estimated has been spent already: in Hindupur more than five times the amount has been spent; in Madakeera the amount spent reaches the inordinate proportion of 23 times the amount estimated; and in Bellary, notwithstanding its being under the supervision of the best tried officers in the famine, Messrs. Howe and Kisch and under the very nose of the Collector himself, the amount spent is more than 12 times the amount estimated. Now from these figures let us turn our eyes to how the uncared for and despised native officials have fared. In Anantapur the amount spent is twice the amount estimated, Hospet ¾, in Kudigi ¾, Harpanhally ⅔, and Hadagully 1½ times. If you compare 2¾, ¾, ⅔ and 1½ with 3, 5, 23, and 12, you can have a very fair estimate of the efficiency or inefficiency of the officers who are responsible for these figures. Now let us take a closer survey of the work turned out in the Taluq of Bellary alone, the estimated amount of Rs. 1,37,080 and the amount spent, viz., Rs. 12,25,292, may be roughly apportioned, in the following manner:—

	Esimated Amt.	*Amt. spent.*
Herahal road ...	80,000	2,00,000
Romanhal do ...	25,000	2,75,000
Rupunduli do ...	30,000	1,50,000
Sirogopah do ...	25,000	2,25,000
Dharwar do ...	20,000	1,00,000

Here it will be seen that the amount spent ranges from 5 times to 11 times the estimated amount, making all possible allowance. As some of us do not belong to the official circle, we can not divine in what wonderful manner this inordinate waste of public money has been accounted for. To assume that in a road where 25,000 Rs. was enough, 2,79,000 was allowed to be spent, without any explanation, is preposterous. We are afraid that mismanagement has greatly increased the cost of Famine Relief.

IN THE MIDST OF HIS LABOURS on the Eastern Question Mr. Gladstone's love of Homer has not abated. It is stated that he is engaged upon a "Primer of Homer" for Messrs. Macmillan and Co's Series of Literature Primers, edited by Mr. J. R. Green.

Mr. NANABHAI HARIDAS, Government Pleader, Bombay, has been again appointed to act for Mr. Justice Kembal, who has taken leave. When will his appointment be made pucka?

THE ST. PETERSBURGH LISTOK hears on good authority that the Russian Government has concluded a contract with a Berlin firm for a supply of 100,000 patent tents for the Russian army. These tents are so constructed that they can easily be converted into stretchers for the wounded, and have several other improvements over those previously used in continental warfare. The contract is to be completed by the end of the present month when it is probable that a further order of a similar number will be given to the same firm.

MR. R. A. DALYELL, Madras Member of the Viceroy's Legislative Council, has been appointed a member of the Indian Council in the room of the late Mr. Robert Ellis. Mr. Dalyell is of an independent cast of mind and a "Madrassi" to the back-bone.

THE SIMLA CORRESPONDENT of the *Pioneer* says that the new order of the Indian Empire will not carry Knighthood with it, but will be similar to the French Legion of Honor. It is, he is told, only to be bestowed on natives and non-official Europeans. We had heard otherwise. According to our information both officials and non-officials, who had not received the Star of India, would be honored with the new Order.

ACCORDING to the same correspondent a committee has been appointed by the Supreme Government to settle the necessary improvements for the station, for which eleven and a half lakhs have been sanctioned. Is this the time to spend money on Simla improvements?

IT APPEARS from the Resolution of the Bengal Government on Forest Administration during the official year 1876-77 that 809 square miles of forest have been added to the Government reserves, bringing the total area up to 3,390 square miles, so situated, the Conservator remarks, "as to be able to supply the timber to every district of this Government, except parts of the Patna and Bhagulpore divisions, which must for the present, depend upon Nepal and Oudh." The Sunderbuns reserve amounted altogether to 1,581 square miles from which 13,999 boats took away during the year upwards of four million maunds of forest produce paying Rs. 84,073.

WEDNESDAY, 7TH NOVEMBER.

IN WRITING about the Native Press the *Times of India* says: "It should be remembered that the Indian Press is still young, and that it has not only the ignorance and presumption of overgrown youth, but a wonderful imitative faculty not due to youth alone. In India unluckily a few Anglo Indian Journalists still permit themselves to indulge in personalities and invectives which would exclude them from the pale of respectable journalism at home, and their manner, their form, and even their epithets are eagerly borrowed by native scribes." Yes, example teaches better than precept.

SIR PATRICK COLQUHOUN sends an account to the *Times* regarding the story of Osman Pasha's being none other than Marshal Bazaine. But this story is not generally believed.

THERE IS to be an exhibition of Fine Arts in Turin in 1879, and the Minister of Public Instruction has offered several prizes for the best works in painting and sculpture.

A STRANGE scene is reported from Sierk on the Moselle. Herr Schmidt had a dog which he wished to get rid of. Rowing out into the middle of the river, he fastened a stone round the dog's head and threw him into the water. The animal sank at once; but during his struggles the rope slipped off the stone, and he again rose to the surface and tried to get back into the boat. His master, however, continued to push him back, but as the dog persevered, he lost his patience, and striking at him with his oar, lost his footing and fell into the water himself. He was unable to swim, but the dog, seizing him by his coat succeeded in bringing him to land, after having been repeatedly washed away by the current. The dog's life was spared, we are happy to say.

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Constantinople to the effect that the harvest is so rich throughout the Turkish provinces that 500,000 men and the whole of the cavalry can be fed for a year on the tithes alone. In Angora, last year's tithes are not yet consumed; and this year's crops throughout the vilayet have been so abundant that the authorities do not know where to find room to stow the tithes away.

WE LEARN from a telegram that the Bombay Famine report dated the 5th instant shows further decrease in total numbers 34184 during the past week, leaving only 164,520 throughout the presidency including numbers on relief works, gratuitous relief and children. The situation continues to improve; excessive rain is now confined to the Belgaum Collectorate. Prices of grain are falling in most places.

THE SPIRITUALIST NEWSPAPER for September last contains an article from the pen of Babu Pearychand Mittra, entitled "God in the Soul." Babu Peary Chand thus gives his spiritual experience:

"Any person really anxious to be spiritual is assisted by spirit friends, a fact I know from personal experience and from spiritual communications. The visits of spirits do not solely end in the external manifestations which they give to produce a conviction of their existence; such manifestations should therefore be looked upon as the first stage of spiritual experience. The real work of the spirits is to spiritualise those who are qualified to receive their aid, and the providence of God is clearly appreciated as we rise from the natural to the spiritual state. When God is seen in the soul, creeds appear in their true colours. They are the outcome of some state or other of the mind or sentient soul, but not of the soul real or tranquil. Hence we have to make large allowance for those who propagate or follow the creeds; they do not possess the splendour within; they mistake darkness for light."

THE FOLLOWING is an extract from a letter addressed by Mr. Alfred Giles, a retired Barrister and intimate friend of Mr. A. J. Davis, to Babu Peary Chand Mittra:

"Before your letter reached me, I had read with great pleasure your biography of David Hare which Mr. Davis had kindly loaned to me. Its last Chapter had so much interested me that I read it twice, the second time allowed to my wife on one Sunday afternoon. Your papers published in the spiritualist entitled" the Psychology of the Buddists and especially "God in the soul" very much led and strengthened me."

WE ARE GLAD to learn from a Melbourne paper that the trustees of the Public Library there have decided to purchase the Daphne of Mr. Marshall Wood, which was exhibited in Calcutta whilst he was here. The price given is one thousand guineas, and we understand that the trustees have decided to erect a special room for the reception of this beautiful work of art.

WE ARE sincerely glad to learn from our Rungpore correspondent that Mr. Beveridge, the Civil and Sessions Judge of Rungpore, is winning golden opinions among the people of the district by his gentleness, kindness, and warm sympathy. Mrs. Beveridge is also seconding the enlightened efforts of her husband. The same writer says that owing to a general panic from the rumour of an approaching cyclone all river traffic in the district is at a stand-still. The prospects of the Rabi crops are very promising, but fever is raging with great virulence in the interior of the district.

THE PEOPLE of Karunjulla, a village in the Subdivision of Diamond Harbour, writes a correspondent, are suffering much from want of medical care. There are neither doctors nor medicines, and the people are too poor to make any provision at their own expense. A native practitioner has established his quarters there and treats the poor gratuitously, but sick people are not cured by seeing a doctor unless he gives them medicines, and the doctor has no medicines nor surgical instruments. The people have submitted a petition to Government, saying that if the Government will provide medicines, the doctor will render his services *gratis*.

THURSDAY 8TH NOVEMBER.

A FAMINE meeting was held at Purulia under the presidency of Col. Morton, the Deputy Commissioner, on the 1st instant, at which most of the distinguished and influencial gentlemen of the station were present. An executive committee was appointed with Babu Gunganund Mookerjea as its chairman. The meeting was informed that it was proposed to call similar meetings at Gurudaspur, Maunbazar and Raghunathpore under the presidency of the Deputy Collector or Moonsiffs of the stations in question. It was also mentioned that Raja Rash Behari Sinha, Zemindar of Jharia, had made an offer, which had been communicated to Government, to take charge of ten orphans 5 boys and 5 girls at his own cost.

A CORRESPONDENT from Gopalpore in the Midnapore district reports a case of highway robbery committed on some respectable passengers, who were passing the road between Trilochunpore and Tatanund on the night of the 13th October. They were natives of those villages, and were carrying hoondies and valuables made up into a bundle, part of which was Government rent realized from Munykhally in the Narajul Sub-division. The case was brought to the notice of the Police, but nothing was done to trace the men. On a report being made of the affair at the Zemindari Kutcherry of Raja Babu some of the amlah attended by peons were sent out in quest of the miscreants, and after considerable search these were traced and made to restore the bundle rifled of its valuables. Our correspondent or those interested should bring the case to the notice of the District Superintendent of Police.

"A MYSORIAN" sends us the following about the appointment of a tutor to His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore;

The many prayers of the Mysorians to see their future Ruler educated in a way befitting his royal dignity and high position seem at last to have attracted the attention of the authorities at Simla, as it is stated that an English Graduate is to be imported to Mysore to look after the Rajah's education, in the place of Captain Wilson, who is to be otherwise disposed of by the Supreme Government.

The Province of Mysore is a Hindu Raj and as the Maharajah will be set to rule over it after he attains his majority, it is a matter for consideration as to who should be his Tutor. Our humble opinion is that an English Graduate fresh from a College without any knowledge of the people, their language, society, manners and customs will not be a suitable person, and I would therefore suggest that the Government should take this opportunity of appointing a gentleman, who is connected with the Educational Department of this province and possesses qualifications of an English Graduate.

There is a Parsi gentleman of Bombay, a graduate of the local University, who knows both English and Latin, who had been to England to compete for the Indian Civil Service Examination—in which however he had the ill luck of taking a place only 2 or 3 below the number required—who thus knows what English life and tastes are, who has travelled in the continent of Europe—notably in France, Germany and Italy, who has already done much good to the educated natives of Bangalore, the capital town of Mysore, who knows tolerably well Hindustani—I allude to Mr. Hormusjee Jehanghirjee Bhabha of Bombay, the Vice Principal of the Central College, Bangalore. This gentleman would make a very worthy tutor for the Maharajah.

Under this gentleman's care, we have every hope to see our youthful Ruler advance in education and enlightenment, while the people would be satisfied with his appointment.

BABU UPENDRANATH GANGULY has sent us a copy of his poem, entitled *Sukha Supna Bhangila* or the Break of a Happy Reverie. There is good deal of pathos in this little poem.

TWO SUICIDES are reported in this town. Babu Haranchunder Chatterjea, a clerk in the Police Office, and Babu Sashichunder Mookerjea, Pleader, High Court, committed suicide within a few days of each other. Both were suffering from dementia.

MORE DEATHS! Babu Ashutosh Bose, a young zemindar of Moorshedabad, who was noted for his public spirit and liberality in his district, is dead. Babu Womeshchunder Bhaddar, well-known as an amateur musician, died about a fortnight ago.

WE HAVE received the first number of a new comic periodical called the *Pickwick Journal*. It is well got up. The comic papers of Calcutta, however, seem to think that they can flourish only by abusing the Bengalis and the Native Press. We hope they will be soon disabused of this impression.

AS A proof of the impolicy of the disintegration of Assam from Bengal we notice that the *Assam Gazette* consists generally of extracts from the *Calcutta Gazette*. It has so little original matter of its own.

THE ORIGIN of the telegram that Lord Salisbury had said that "he was willing to endure a shilling income tax on behalf of India" was this. In reply to a suggestion by Mr. Ripley at Bradford that an income-tax of a shilling in the pound should be imposed for the assistance of India, Lord Salisbury delivered himself to the following effect:—"I can only tell you that, as far as I am departmentally concerned, if the Chancellor of the Exchequer thinks fit to impose a shilling income-tax for the purpose of helping the Indian revenue, I shall not object; but whether he is likely to do so, I must leave you to judge." So there is no chance of his Lordship's "enduring a shilling income tax"!

FRIDAY, 9TH NOVEMBER.

THE SATYA MITRA says that "Mr. Nursey Kessuvjee, the son of Kessuvjee Nayek, Esq., of Bombay, has been fortunate enough to realise within the last fortnight more than Rs. 10,00,000 as profit in Malwa and Bengal opium. He had an immense quantity in hand, both in Bombay and China, when the sudden news that the Chinese Government had burnt or destroyed all the opium plantations within their territory, raised the price of opium in Hongkong from 500 dollars to 700 per chest. A similar impulse being given to the Bombay market, the price rose from Rs. 1,200 to Rs. 1,550 per chest of Malwa opium." The news that the Chinese Government has burnt all opium plantations within its territories has caused great excitement among opium dealers. Speculation is rife as to whether the Government will throw into the market any part of its reserve in consequence of this measure of the Chinese Government. Whatever the Government wishes to do ought to be announced at once, for uncertainty unsettles the market.

IT IS STATED that a native is exhibiting in Madras a marvellous hen with four legs and two tails, and which lays two eggs at a time, just like Leda. The price of admission is one pice. The hen is then laying golden eggs!

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER. After the lapse of two years the "silver medal" presented by H. R. H the Prince of Wales to Sir Munguldas Nathubhai of Bombay as a memento of the Royal visit, has reached the hands of the Governor of Bombay. Sir Richard Temple, at a recent Evening Party at Sir Munguldas's house, took the fortunate donee by surprise by "pinning" it to his breast. The Native Press of Bombay protests against this unceremonious way of performing a ceremony. But Sir Richard Temple compensated this loss of dignity by making a highly complimentary and hearty address to the worthy Knight.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR of Cambridge University has received a letter from the Marquis of Salisbury, announcing that he has placed that University on the list of institutions in which selected candidates for the Indian Civil Service can reside during their two years' period of probation in England. We hope this will not be the sole outcome of the late agitation against the new rules for the Civil Service Competition.

THE IMPERIAL Russian Geographical Society has lately sent an expedition to explore the river highways of Siberia. One of the objects of the expedition is to further investigate the possibility of river trade routes from the heart of Asia to the sea. The Russians hope in time to carry goods from their possessions in Asia to Archangel. Lately, as the English papers noticed, the accessibility of Siberia by sea has been clearly proved; one steamer from Hull getting as far inland as Tooolsk.

THE STATESMAN notices a dacoity, which took place near Ballygunge on the 4th instant. At midnight a gang of dacoits entered the house of Moothor Palue, of Kusba, a village close to the Ballygunge Railway Station, and cleared away everything he had, after brutally wounding every member of the family, a child of three years not excepted. One Bhalu Nuskur, a neighbour who came to the aid of Moothor and who was dangerously wounded, recognised one of the gang, who was arrested with two Hindustani men. The house of the first prisoner was searched, and some of the stolen property found. Out of ten wounded persons three women and two men were sent to the hospital. It is strange that a dacoity of this kind should occur within almost a stone's throw of Calcutta.

THE Directors of the Bank of Bengal, at their meeting yesterday, reduced the rates of interest and discount one per cent. all round.

MELBOURNE has come forward most liberally in aid of the Indian Famine Relief Fund. At the public meeting held for this purpose the Mayor stated that "he had received that morning from a native-born gentleman of whom they must all feel proud, and who would do honor to the nobility of the old country—Mr. W. J. Clarke—a cheque for £2,000, £1,000 in the name of Mrs. Clarke, and £1,000 in his own name. (Loud cheers.)" We give the names of some of the principal subscribers: The Mayor, 100 guineas; Hon. W. Campbell, £100; Francis Ormond, £100; W. M. Bell, 100 guineas; James Service and Co., £100; His Excellency the Governor, £50; Robert Harper, £50; Sir J. O'Shanassy, 20 guineas; Hon. N. Fitzgerald, 20 guineas; and W. Siddeley, 20 guineas. The Mayor mentioned that the Railway department had undertaken to raise £500.

AT THE meeting referred to above the Governor made a feeling speech, from which we make the following extract:

"I think you will concur with me that the people of Victoria, enjoying as they do to the fullest extent the privilege of self-Government, may naturally and gracefully extend their aid to the weak and suffering people of India, who are, in a sense, wards placed under the powerful guardianship of our Sovereign and of our British race. In the next place, as Mr. Fitzgerald had said, we have ourselves been recently delivered, by the blessing of Providence, from that very calamity of prolonged drought, which has brought such cruel suffering on our fellow-subjects in India; and how can we show our gratitude better than by contributing from our abundance to their grievous and pressing necessities? Mr. Shiels spoke of seeing the present Governor of Madras working hard with his staff for the relief of the destitute. It is a somewhat singular fact that I had invited to be my guest here at the approaching Melbourne races the present Governor of Madras—the Duke of Buckingham—who was formerly Secretary of State for the Colonies, and who takes a lively interest in Australia. Of course, the affliction which has overtaken the millions over whom the rules will prevent him from leaving his post at present. But I will send to the Duke of Buckingham, and to Lord Lytton, the Viceroy of India (who is also my personal friend), reports of this day's proceedings. They cannot fail to be cheered and encouraged in their great difficulties by the sympathy and active aid of their fellow-countrymen here in this Greater Britain of the south, as well as in the old Britain of the north."

India will always cherish a lively sense of Melbourne's generosity.

THE LAST NUMBER of the *Calcutta Gazette* contains an interesting Resolution on the reports of Lunatic Asylums in Bengal. The number of lunatics confined on the last day of the past year was 1131. Among the causes of insanity, excess in ganja accounted for 30·66 per cent., and excess in spirituous liquors for 4·16 per cent. Of the cases treated during the year, grief was assigned as the predisposing cause in 5·55 per cent of the cases. Altogether 45.73 per cent. were attributed to the operation of physical, and 7·93 per cent. to that of moral causes, while in

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46·33 per cent. the cause was unknown. The various types of insanity prevailed in the following proportions:—Chronic mania 38·86, chronic dementia 24·25, acute mania 20·42, melancholia 9·05, acute dementia 4·36 idiocy ·79, and imbecility and amentia ·39 per cent. The recoveries were 21·03 per cent. of the cases in acute mania, 15·15 in acute dementia, 7·31 in chronic mania, 1·45 in melancholia, and 1·08 in chronic dementia. There were no recoveries from idiocy or amentia. The proportion of complete cures was 10·61 per cent. of average strength, 8·58 per cent. of cases treated, and 35·51 per cent of admissions. The proportion of recoveries, partial and total, was 17·14 per cent of average strength, 13·86 per cent. of the total treated, and 57·36 per cent. of admissions. These results are much less favourable than those of the previous year, which gave 28·23, 21·31, and 76·07 per cent. respectively, and were also considerably below the average of the preceding quinquennial period.

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR very properly insists upon economy in the management of Lunatic Asylums. The gross average cost of maintaining each patient varies most markedly. Thus in Dullunda it is Rs. 142, in Dacca Rs. 110, in Cuttack Rs. 96, in Patna Rs. 87, in Hazareebagh at the rate of about Rs. 81, in Berhampore Rs. 80, and in Moydapore Rs. 78. The gross cost per head on account of "establishment" ranged from Rs. 70 in Dullunda and Rs. 58 in Cuttack to Rs. 39 in Berhampore and Rs. 38 in Patna. The annual average charge for "diet," which was Rs. 55 per head in Dullunda and Rs. 54 in Dacca, was only Rs 32 in Berhampore, Rs. 31 in Cuttack, and Rs. 27 in Hazareebagh. The Lieutenant-Governor sees no good reason why the expenses of Dullunda, Dacca, and Cuttack should so largely exceed average. We concur. His Honor adds, "he is well aware of the earnestness and success with which Dr. Payne manages the institutions under his charge, but desires that his attention may be invited to the possibility of reductions in the scale of expenditure."

SATURDAY, 10TH NOVEMBER.

IN HIS Resolution on the administration of the Excise Department the Lieutenant Governor makes the following general remarks:

"But the Lieutenant-Governor, while he desires to impress upon all officers concerned the importance of the financial aspect of the question, wishes it to be clearly understood that the Government is determined to maintain the principles upon which the Department of Excise has hitherto been administered. The necessary increase of revenue must be obtained by economical management, by stricter enforcement of the Law, and by raising the duties on excisable articles; but nothing must be done to stimulate consumption, or to place temptations to intemperance in the way of the people.

We hope the Department will act in this spirit.

THE BENGALEE has received the following particulars of the Macpherson job from a friend, who has just returned from Simla. We summarize the account as given by our contemporary:

"When Mr. Phillips resigned the Secretaryship to the Government of India in the Legislative Department, the Hon'ble Mr. Stokes, was anxious to have a Secretary who would carry out his orders without any opposition and whom he would be able to train up. Fortune seemed to smile on Mr. Stokes and threw, in his way, Mr. Macpherson, a young Barrister, who joined the Calcutta Bar about a year ago. Mr. Stokes asked Mr. Macpherson if he would like to be Secretary to the Government of India, in the Legislative Department, on a salary of Rs. 2,000 rising to Rs.2,500 a month. Mr. Macpherson agreed to accept the post. Mr. Chapman consented as the appointment would effect a saving of Rs. 1,500 a month. Lord Lytton at first hesitated to sanction, but His Lordship was afterwards talked over. But Mr. Phillips the retiring Secretary stood in the way. He pointed out a rule to the effect that no one who had not been in India for 7 or 8 years could hold the office of a Secretary to the Government of India. Mr. Stokes then said that Mr. Macpherson could be made Secretary to the Legislative Council. Mr. Phillips reminded him that during the stay of the Governor General in Council at Simla, intricate questions of law were often referred to the Legislative Secretary by the different Departments, and that none but a man of experience could be expected to satisfactorily dispose of them. In the meantime Mr. Jardine who had been brought from Bombay to succeed Mr. Phillips heard of the new arrangement and he protested against the injustice done to him. Through Mr. Stokes' influence Mr. Jardine was elsewhere provided for. But another difficulty presented itself when Mr. Fitzpatrick, the Deputy Secretary to the Legislative Council, returned from Lahore on being relieved of his acting appointment at Punjab Chief Court by the permanent incumbent. He not only declined to act under Mr. Macpherson, but claimed the post vacated by Mr. Phillips' resignation. Mr. Phillips was, at this time, sent for by the Viceroy and, after several hours' consultation, it was arranged that Mr Macpherson should be made Deputy Secretary to the Legislative Council. Mr. Stokes then asked Mr Macpherson whether he had any objection to this arrangement. He is reported to have said that he would accept the Deputy Secretaryship provided he was allowed Rs. 2,000 per mensem. Mr Stokes thought that he had now got rid of his difficulty, and that he would now have rest. But he soon found out his mistake. The mischievous Financial Secretary came in his way. He said that he had agreed to give Rs 2000 to the *Secretary* and not *Deputy Secretary* who can have only Rs. 1350 per month. Mr. Macpherson has declined to serve on this salary. The matter, has been referred to the Secretary of State."

Our contemporary says that the above may be relied upon as substantially correct.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE, North-Western Provinces, with the sanction of Government, have directed that no decision shall be modified, remanded, cancelled, or reversed on appeal by any Revenue Court subordinate to them, without an opportunity being given to the respondent of stating his case, in person or by agent duly authorized, orally or in writing. We wonder that the rule was not observed before.

THE EXTENSION of the Oudh and Rohilkund Railway, from the Benares Cantonment to the bank of the river at Rajghat on the Ganges, will it is stated be put in hand at once and completed, it is hoped, by April next.

A NATIVE CONSTABLE of this town was charged with neglecting his duty inasmuch as he was simply a looker-on whilst a riot took place in his presence. The Magistrate convicted and sentenced him to one month's rigorous imprisonment, observing that if he was unable to cope with the mob single-handed, he might, at least, have obtained assistance from the local thannah. Cases of this kind are not rare.

THE LAST NUMBER of the *Indian Charivari* to hand. Lord Beresford, A. D C. to the Viceroy, is the subject of the Album Portrait. The *Charivari* is again suffering from Bengalo-phobia.

THE ENGLISHMAN has received a telegram to the effect that a collison occurred yesterday near the Arkonam Junction between the mail train from Raichor and a goods train. One European sailor, three Hindus, and one Parsi were killed, and three European sailors and an engine-driver and one Hindu were injured. The goods train carried one hundred remount horses for Sikandarabad, of which only three horses were reported to have been killed.

THE HAIDARABAD STATE RAILWAY has taken the lead of other railways in this country as an employer of female labour, a Mrs Greenhill, wife of an ordance conductor, having been appointed to collect tickets from native passengers.

THERE IS a fair prospect of a Railway through the rich district of Mymensing. There was a meeting of the Zemindars lately under the presidency of the Commissioner. They were willing to subscribe, but the capital, the Agent to the Eastern Bengal Railway Company informed the meeting, will be raised in England.

THE EAST writes that a "noble hearted philanthropist has sent currency notes for Rs. 1,200 enclosed in an anonymous letter, to the Commissioner of Dacca, in aid of the Madras Famine Relief Fund" Such instances of anonymous charity are rare in these days of blow-hard.

THE DEATHS in Calcutta during the week ending 3rd November had risen to 303, of which 140 were from fever, 31 from diarrhœa and dysentery, 26 from cholera and 15 from tetanus. There were 16 children still born during the week.

ACCOUNTS from Kashgar brought by Haji Abdu Karim, who accompanied some caravans of Central Asian Trading Company recently arrived, state that Amir Yakub Khan's fatal illness was accompanied by insanity brought on by Chinese successes, especially the capture of Turfan, of which place Hakim Khan Tora was Governor. Nujar Beg kept Amir's death a secret for some days, sending private information to Beg Kuli, but Hakim Khan and other generals insisted on seeing the Amir, so the secret became known. The Kipchaks rose and seized the treasury and Nujar Beg fled to Khokan. In other respects these accounts confirm previous accounts.

REFERRING to the Stamp Bill a correspondent, who is a Pleader, writes to us as follows:

By a careful study of the new Civil Procedure Code it has no doubt become evident to many that a great deal of responsibility has been put on the pleaders acting under it and that more time and attention shall have to be bestowed by them in the proper management or conduct of a suit or defence than they ever bestowed or had occasion to do. It will be seen that at each stage of the suit the law has given a discretion to the Courts to allow or not the costs of any proceeding. As far as Bengal is concerned for I do not speak of the other Presidencies there has not as yet been fixed either by the local Government or the High Court of Calcutta any scale of cost for the guidance of the Mofussil Courts to meet the requirements of the Code neither I am aware whether it is already in the contemplation of any of the aforesaid authorities to fix any such scale. But as the Code has already come into operation I submit that it is high time that the High Court should lay down some definite rules in respect thereof.

WE HAVE received the following letter from Khurdah:

"I know it too well that the local authorities at Khurdah, a village within the jurisdiction of Magistracy of Barrackpore, will do nothing for causing the removal of filth and other nuisances with which the place abound, and which is the chief cause of the fearful mortality now prevailing there. But humanity demands that I should once more bring to the notice of the Public and especially of the Commissioner of the Presidency Division the state of things which causes the frequent deaths. There are in this wretched village several big tanks overgrown with rancorous vegetation as well as number of privies having wells at their bottoms and others, which are not once cleaned in ten years. Cesspools are many in number even on the road sides by which the Municipal Commissioners pass daily and the Magistrate occasionally without ever taking notice of them. Jungles as usual are let to grow and rot on waste lands lying in the middle of the thickly populated parts of the village, and are made use of by the people as places of need during the several festivities such as the Rass Jattra, Saratras Jattra, Phooldole of Shamsoonder Thakoor and of other festivities of Peer Shah Phooreed, Khetropal Thakoor &c., that take place every year when there is a vast gathering of people. The first mentioned of the festivities will take place on the day of the next full moon, and although its duration is only three days, the people begin to gather there 6 days before the festival begins and many tarry for more than 10 or 12 days after the mela is over. The number of people that gather on this occasion is sometimes estimated as high as 20,000, and if no precautionary measures be taken in time, the coming fair will no doubt help to swell the list of mortality in the village."

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals:—1. Report on Civil and Criminal Justice in British Burma for 1876. 2. Journal of the Society of Arts, for March 1877, No. 1270 Vol. XXV. 3. Journal of the National Indian Association No. 82, October 1877. 4. The Pickwick Journal, an illustrated serio-comic monthly publication, for 27th October, 1877. 5. The Suddarshana–Chintanika or Studies in Indian Philosophy, Vol. I. No. 10, October, 1877. 6. The Anglo-Indian Commercial Advertiser and Colonial Register, No. 86, September 30, 1877. 7. Gitankur or a Collection of Sacred songs. Second Edition By Tekchand Thakur.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, 4th November.—The greater part of the Russian army, which commands the line of the Jantra, has been withdrawn, and sent to assist the Russian force before Plevna. A Russian official despatch states that the Russians have occupied Tetewen near Orchanie, and that the occupation involves a loss to the Turks of seven large and thirty small entrenched positions, besides much booty. The Russians have also occupied Lukowitza, situated to the south-west of Plevna. Latest accounts of Chefket Pasha's movements state that he is retreating in the direction of Orchanie. The Russians are making preparations to invest Erzeroum.

Obituary—Field Marshal Count Von Wrangel, German Army.

4th.—A Russian official despatch states that the Russian advanced guard is within twelve miles of Erzeroum. The Russians are concentrating before Daveboyun, where Ghazi Muktar is entrenched.

New York, 3rd November.—The American Agricultural Bureau estimates the Cotton Crop at 4,500 000 bales.

London, 5th November—Sir Bartle Frere, Governor of Cape Colony has issued a proclamation deposing the Kreli Chief and annexing his territory called Transkei to the British Empire. Latest news from Armenia states that a heavy snowfall has prevented the Russians at Olta from marching to turn Erzeroum.

6th.—Stormy weather, which has set in, is checking the advance of the Russian army of Dobrudscha on Silistria. The Turks have been strongly reinforced at Orchanie. The latest news from the seat of war in Armenia states that the Russians have commenced the siege of Kars.

The *Daily Telegraph* states that the Russians, on the 5th instant, made an attack along their whole line on Turkish positions before Daviboyun, where Ahmed Mukter Pasha is strongly entrenched, and that the Turkish centre was broken and compelled to retreat. During the engagement lasting ten hours, Ahmed Muktar Pasha was a slightly wounded. Rumours which have been current lately of foreign mediation in the Turko-Russian war have been authoritatively denied.

Paris, 5th November.—M. Pouyer Quertier is engaged in forming a new ministry. M. Vogue has been selected to fill the post of the minister of foreign affairs.

6th.—(Morning)—The Ministay found by M. Pouyer Quertier is not acceptable to the Republican party. The Elections of Councillors are generally favourable to the Republican party. M. Fouquet has defeated the Duc de Broglie.

6th.—(*Afternoon*). With the exception of M Pouyer Quertier the members of the new ministry are all unknown men, and their appointment is considered transitory.

London. 8th November.—Gazi Ahmud Muktar has sent a despatch, in which he admits an engagement at Diviboyun on the 5th instant, and states that the Turks subsequently retreat to Erzeroum. A Russian official despatch states that the Russians have captured one hundred wagons and carried off a large number of cattle from the Turks, at Wratza, north of Orchanie. General Skobeloff telegraphs that on the 5th instant he approached the Turkish position to the south of Plevna, and commanded them. The Russian Army Corps in the Dobrudscha, commanded by General Zimmermann, is apparently settling into winter-quarters at Kustendjie. A German telegraph clerk has been murdered near Adrianople, and the German ambassador at Constantinople has instigated the Porte to enquire into the matter.

8th.—A Russian official despatch states that General Tergukassy on the 4th instant defeated the combined forces of Gazi Ahmud Mukter and Ismail Pasha at Deviboyun After nine hours' continuous fighting the Turkish troops retreated in disorder.

Paris 7th November.—Marshal MacMahon has positively disclaimed any intention of resigning. The opening of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies to-day was of an uneventful nature. M. Jules Grevy has been elected President of the Chamber of Deputies.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, 12, NOVEMBER, 1877.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE UPON INDIA.

THE usual tide of Recess eloquence has begun to flow in. As might be expected, those Mem-

bers of Parliament, who take interest in India, have given it due prominence in their addresses. Both Mr. Bright and Mr. Fawcett have spoken, and we have now before us the addresses of the Secretary of State and Under-Secretary of State for India. Lord Salisbury made a most important speech at Bradford. His Lordship divided his address into three parts, 1 the Madras Famine, 2 Irrigation as a preventive of famine, and 3 the Cotton duties. In speaking to the first point his Lordship sought to defend the generally believed shortcomings of the Indian Government. It would be a truism to say that in carrying on such gigantic operations as were involved in affording relief to the sufferers from the famine in Madras there must be mistakes, deficiencies, and slips, for which it would be most uncharitable to blame the Government. If India had not been at the present time under the beneficent sway of England, we cannot conceive what would have been the fate of the millions, who have been smitten with this most dire visitation, and all honor therefore to our Government for the success, which it has achieved. At the same time we cannot concur with all that has fallen from Lord Salisbury in defence of famine administration. His Lordship tried to underrate the mortality that has followed the Famine in Madras. Of course the truth about the famine mortality will never be known. But his Lordship said, "there is always a considerable doubt as to how far the mortality of which we have heard is *the result of epidemic or famine.*" True, but the epidemic of cholera and diarrhœa was a consequence of the Famine. The system of half rations to which the sufferers were subjected reduced their vitality so low that they easily fell victims to disease and death. His Lordship remarked, "cholera and famine are two terrible allies when they occupy the battle-field together, each helps the other, and no man can say to which the principal part of the result is due, and I am not prepared to say that I should absolutely endorse all figures of mortality which have reached you." But if the system of relief induced cholera, should not the mortality be attributed to the famine? Lord Salisbury added, "statistics in this country is a very advanced science. In India it is a science in its infancy." This is quite true. Hence it is we do not put much faith in our census returns But the mortality from the famine ought not to be judged by a comparison with the death-rate of previous years. There is the broad fact that the mortality has been very heavy, and the question is whether it was preventible or not. Lord Salisbury admitted that the sufferings of the people have been most intense, and what is the prospect of those who have been rescued from death? His Lordship said, "they have been stripped of absolutely everything. I have heard tales of whole populations selling down to the roof beams over their heads in order to provide themselves with food before they came to our relief camps for help, for to whatever motive you may ascribe it, and I hope it is in the main a creditable motive, it is only in the utmost necessity that they will come to Government for relief. In fact, that has been our great difficulty." And His Lordship thus dilated on this difficulty:

"The difficulty is to deal with vast multitudes spread over a vast territory, with people who speak a language and whose thoughts are entirely different from your own, and you cannot get at their minds, you cannot get at them sufficiently to induce them to apply for relief."

But this difficulty did not interfere with the work of famine relief in Behar in 1874. What is the cause of this difference? It is we fear nothing less than this—the Government in 1874 determined to save life at any cost, while the Government in 1877 subordinated expenditure to considerations of humanity. All this was of course changed when Lord Lytton himself descended to the field to head the campaign against the famine.

Lord Salisbury next turned to Irrigation as a panacea for Famine. He said:

"I was sorry to see that in some places a kind of cry was being got up for a violent and excessive expenditure on public works to save the country from famine. I am the last person to speak against a judicious, circumspect, and liberal expenditure on public works; but there is a great difference between that and rushing hastily into an expenditure of thirty millions, a sum which I am sorry to see fell from the mouth of one of the most distinguished authorities in this country. Now, irrigation is a very good thing indeed, but it won't prevent famine—for this single reason, that water will not flow up-hill. It is applied in the Ganges Valley with great effect, and in portions of Madras, I have no doubt, also it can be applied most usefully. But the great mass of the country in which this famine prevails is a country which can not be served by canal irrigation, in which the people trust in the main to crops which depend upon the annual rainfall, and it cannot be in any way assisted, or at least cannot be saved from famine by irrigation. If you expend money rashly upon irrigation works which will not pay and which cannot be used by the inhabitants, the interest for that money must be found out of the taxes, the taxes must in the main be levied upon the peasant, and the end will be that in order to save him from famine which may come once in 20 years you will crush him under an increased burden of taxes which come upon him every year."

We entirely agree. Irrigation is certainly necessary, but not everywhere. Where the rainfall is abundant irrigation is not needed except in seasons of drought, and the gain in one season of drought will not compensate the heavy losses, which the people will suffer in the shape of a permanent heavy irrigation tax. But there are tracts of country, which are not ordinarily blessed with an adequate rainfall; in such localities irrigation does much good, as for instance parts of Northern India. There the people greedily take water from the canals. Lord Salisbury gave some wholesome advice to the people of England in respect of Indian politics. His Lordship said: "The slightest movement of the great public opinion of this country, if it really sets itself in action, operates with irresistible force upon the government of a country which is necessarily despotic. It is in your power, if you give a thoughtless sanction to imprudent measures to mar the fortunes of your Indian fellow-subjects, as much as it is in your power by reasonable help and prudent counsel to restore them to their former prosperity. (Cheers.)" But to enable the English public to discuss intelligently Indian questions it is necessary to diffuse among them a correctknowledge of India. Lord Salisbury thus dwelt upon the lessons of the Famine: "Now, depend upon it, the only true remedy against occasional famine and scarcity is the frugality of the people themselves in times of plenty. (Hear, hear.) If they are too many for the land to support, well then there must be emigration. (Hear hear.) You know in Ireland that was the case. There were too many people for the land to support. A great calamity came, great emigration followed, and there is no danger now of any such calamity being repeated: but if the people are too many for the land, if the land can really support them, then it follows that they ought in years of plenty to make money enough to lay up against these times of famine, and it is to the improvement of the civilization of the people themselves, to the improvement of their social condition, to rescuing them from the grasp of the money-lenders who now eat up their fortunes—it is to this rather than to any great and passionate expenditure on public works that I should look for a remedy, and to prevent calamities of this kind from recurring (Hear, hear.)" Emigration is certainly a remedy, but the people of India unfortunately are not enterprising, and they are too tenacious of their homes. That the true remedy of the famine is frugality of the people is a truism, but how can they learn to be frugal, if they find it hard to make the two ends meet? This is the most important question. Do the land tax and other taxes leave sufficient for the people to live upon and spare? Unhappily this is not the case. The Government ought to direct its attention to this point. It ought to see that the people have enough to be frugal with.

Lord Salisbury again harped upon the cotton duties. Of course this is not the time to remit taxes, but his Lordship plainly told his audience that if he should remain in power he would see the duties taken off or reduced. He spoke strongly on this subject. He said:

Now, gentlemen, I think you will admit with me that there is a time for putting on taxes and there is a time for taking them off. I am afraid in the present circumstances of India we have got the time for putting on taxes, not the time for taking them off. It is calculated that this famine will cost us in money paid and in revenue lost not less than eleven million pounds, and possibly great deal more. Even if we only raise the revenue, which, of course, we must do to meet the interest on that sum, it will be a very considerable burden on a finance that is already inelastic; but if we do more, as we ought as prudent and solvent people to do, if we try to meet at least a portion of this current expenditure out of our current revenue, it is obvious that much larger fiscal measures must be undertaken. At such a time it is impossible to hope that we can dispense with any sources of revenue. But I do not say, therefore, that nothing can be done with this tax. To a considerable extent, I have reasons to believe, it is not a revenue-bearing tax, but a tax of prohibition. The pressure of official opinion—of Anglo-Indian opinion—is against the removal of this tax, and there will always, therefore, be adverse pressure against any such measure. Ministries change, and you may have Ministers in office who are not keen for the removal of the tax, and they would not think themselves bound, perhaps, to carry out the resolutions which some former Ministers had made; but the resolution of the House of Commons is a solemn record of the national opinion from which I hope that no Ministry will go back (cheers), and I feel that this is a matter of something more than the importance attaching to the duties themselves.

We have more than once endeavoured to show that the cotton duty is not a protective duty. Lord Northbrook has proved that it is not so. Notwithstanding this duty the import of cotton goods has been increasing. The only class of goods which have fallen off is the coarse cloth, but the duty upon it amounts to four lacs of rupees per annum, and we can well afford to go without it. The finer goods form the bulk of Manchester trade with India, and the duty has not reduced their import. But the duty is maintained because it yields a large amount of revenue, and it cannot be replaced without a heavy taxation upon the people. We cannot believe that Parliament will give its assent to a policy, which is sure to be attended with such an undesirable result.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE UPON INDIA.

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, Under-Secretary of State for India, has fully justified the high expectations formed of His Lordship by Lord Beaconsfield. The rapidity with which he has mastered the details of the India Office, the ability with which he grasps questions of principle, the readiness with which he answers queries in Parliament, and the ease with which he handles figures, do great credit to this rising statesman. We always read with pleasure his public utterances, though we may not always agree with him. His last speech delivered at Staines is full of interest to the Indian reader. After recounting the horrors of war in Eastern Europe, His Lordship said: "We can turn with relief from this scene of suffering to the misery in India. It is not because distress there is less acute or our sympathy with it duller. In Europe the whole resources of two Empires and the whole ingenuity and wit of man is expended in devising wholesale schemes of slaughter. In India the whole machinery of our Government and the credit of our Treasury is strained to preserve life and save millions from starvation. (Cheers.)" His Lordship then continued: "The first idea we must get into our heads in dealing with Indian questions is the enormous size of India. English public men are apt to suggest remedies for Indian difficulties which, however efficacious here, would be wholly futile in the vast space of India. India is about as large as the Continent of Europe excluding Russia, and contains, a larger and more varied population. In a country so vast there must necessarily be a great variety of climate. This is very clearly shown by the rainfall, which varies from an annual fall of 5in. to 10in. in the north, to 75in. to over 100in elsewhere." This variation of climate leads to varied atmospheric effects. As Lord George Hamilton said, "we must expect and be prepared for scarcity and drought to a certain extent occurring; but the famines in Bengal in 1874 and that now devastating Madras are altogether exceptional in their character and magnitude, and must be treated as such. In Bengal, a complete failure

of rain scarcely ever occuring, we have, in consequence, the densest agricultural population in the world." His Lordship thus noticed the Madras Famine:

"The present famine in Madras is caused by a combination of adverse circumstances, such as is not likely to occur again for many years. There had been a succession of bad harvests up to January, 1876; but it was not until the complete failure of the crops towards the end of October, 1876, that the Madras Government informed the Supreme Government in India that they were in the presence of a great and imminent famine. Prompt measures were immediately taken, and a very heavy expenditure incurred. We hoped that the spring showers of this year would afford us a certain amount of food, and that the summer rains would realize a bountiful harvest during August and September. Both have disappointed us. There has been, in a tropical climate over an area as large as Spain, and containing a population of over 30 millions, little or no rain for 18 months. Vegetation has disappeared; water-tanks are dried up; the cattle, the main means of transport, have perished by tens of thousands. In other parts of India, in the North-West Provinces and Rajpootana, rain has also failed, and the supply of food throughout India has been largely diminished. Even with our elaborate system of poor-law relief and our multitudinous railways, such a failure of the food supply would have been with difficulty met. In India there is no poor-law or anything analogous to it, and there is but one railway running through the greater part of the Madras Presidency. Such was the situation which the Indian Government had suddenly to face."

And notwithstanding all shortcomings and blunders the Government of India has performed a marvellous work. No Asiatic Government would have been able to cope with such a widespread calamity as the Famine in Madras. They would not have had the means, machinery and method for meeting it. The British Government had already taken measures, which did the most important service in this crisis. The Railways we may say have saved India from the horrors of the Famine. Of course there have been much suffering, much privation, much hardship, much sickness and much mortality, but no Asiatic Government, we are convinced, would have achieved the success, which has crowned the benevolent efforts of the British Government. Perhaps a greater success would have followed, if the Government of India had not in the first instance adopted the parsimonious and faint-hearted policy of Sir John Strachey, if it had not allowed itself to be in a state of constant friction with the Madras Government, and if Lord Lytton had from the commencement relied upon his own unsophisticated judgment and humane instincts, but what is done is done. Lord George Hamilton fully justified the *coup d'etat* at Madras. He said:

"I am somewhat surprised to see that this act of Lord Lytton's is criticized as contrary to the Act of Parliament by which the Madras Government consists of a Governor and Council. By no Act of Parliament or otherwise have the Madras Government any power to spend the revenues of India in relieving a famine in their Presidency. If the Supreme Government sanction an enormous expenditure for that purpose, they have an undisputed right to fix the conditions under which the money is to be spent. The main principles are:—1. A large scheme of useful public works, to be the backbone of the relief system all persons able to work being placed on them; gratuitous relief to be subsidiary, and given only to those unable to work. (Hear, hear.) 2. An abstention on the part of Government from purchasing grain on its own account, experience having shown that Government operations in the grain market paralyse private trade to an extent altogether out of proportion to the operations themselves. (Hear, hear.) 3. That Government should increase and facilitate in every way the transport and carrying power of the country. (Hear, hear.) To carry out the scheme 160 European officers have been sent to the assistance of the Madras Government."

Lord George Hamilton was opposed to an imperial grant from the English Treasury to India on account of the famine and to irrigation works as a preventive of drought. His Lordship remarked:

"I estimated this year in the House of Commons that this famine would cost us alone about 5½ millions sterling. The expenditure may now be doubled in British India alone. A Government loan based on the security of the English revenues, has been advocated in many quarters. I can quite understand circumstances in which it would be almost impossible for the English Government to refuse such assistance. Speaking, however, in the interests of India, nothing but very exceptional circumstances would justify such a course. If it once be known in India that every local scarcity is to be met out of the unlimited pocket of the English Treasury, we should strike a fatal blow at local independence and local financial responsibility. At present the Indian Government are in no immediate want of funds, and Her Majesty's Government have determined that no loss of life shall occur through lack of supplies. (Cheers.) As to the future, we must try and put in force in India gradually the same principles of local financial responsibility which have worked so well here. Not the least of the dangers to which famine exposes India is the revival of futile and extravagant schemes for their prevention. We are now asked, "Why have you not spent 30 millions more on irrigation and upon railways?" The answer is obvious and conclusive. We have found by bitter experience that when irrigation works are built the people wont take the water during the years of plenty, and, in consequence, our irrigation works do not pay. If they do not by voluntary effort pay, you must either lose heavily on them annually or impose compulsory water rates. Railways, on the other hand, are not only now paying well, but they have developed to an extraordinary extent the trade and prosperity of India and diminished our military expenditure; and it is by their agency alone we have kept people alive during the last two famines. If there had been no railways in Madras many millions of people would have died this year."

We entirely agree. An imperial grant would be simply calamitous, while thoughtless expenditure on irrigation would simply add to the financial embarassment of the empire.

THE CONDITION OF BEHAR.

MR. EDEN has directed his attention to the condition of Behar not too soon. The state of the mass of the population there is truly deplorable. As the Commissioner reports, the wages of the labouring class are barely sufficient to furnish them with the means of supporting life. They live from hand to mouth, are always underfed, and the slightest abnormal pressure brings them to the verge of acute distress. Mr. Worsley shows that in Tirhoot the money wages of field laborers have remained practically unchanged for the last sixty years. Although the prices of food-grains have risen, and are still apparently rising, one anna to one anna and a half per diem is still the usual wage of an able-bodied laborer. The apparent hardship of this is, however, somewhat mitigated by the fact that it is the custom of the district to pay the laborers in kind rather than in cash, and that, even when cash is paid, the laborer usually gets also his midday meal. At harvest time the laborers are remunerated by a percentage of the crop reaped—one sheaf for every sixteen is said to be the usual proportion. Under this arrangement, as Mr. Macdonnell points out, the laborer is worse off in a bad year, and the bad years have in North Behar been very frequent of late. The cultivating classes are generally involved in debt. "Even in time of plenty," the Commissioner writes, "after paying the rent and the numerous cesses exacted by the landlords, very little is left to them for their support. When such is the condition of the people in ordinary years, the failure of a single crop is sure to cause distress." This is felt most in the tracts where rice is the principal crop, as that is most susceptible to injury from drought. In the year of report, relief measures on a limited scale had to be organised on this account in parts of Mudhoobunnee, which is almost entirely a rice-producing tract, and which suffered from a failure of the autumn rains of 1875, while the other sub-divisions of Durbhunga were in comparatively good case.

Several circumstances have contributed to the depressed condition of the people of Behar. Firstly, over-population. Some parts of Behar are more densely populated than most parts of India. The people as usual with orientals are too much attached to their homes, and wont move. The consequence is that there are more mouths to feed and more hands to cultivate than there are fields for them. Secondly, the *ticcadari* system has ground down the tenantry. The zemindars are satisfied with temporary gains in the shape of bonuses, while the ticcadars feel no personal interest in the ryots, inasmuch as they have no permanent interest in the land. On the other hand the ticcadars are mostly planters and they appropriate the best lands to indigo, which entails a double loss upon the ryots, that is to say they cannot grow paying crops on their lands, while the rates paid for indigo are not remunerative. Thirdly, the collapse of saltpetre manufacture under the crushing tax imposed by Mr. Wilson. The nooniahs, who used to manufacture saltpetre, were thrown adrift, and they were the greatest sufferers during the famines of 1866 and 1874. Fourthly, the infinitessimal sub-division of land under the Batwara law, and lastly the dense ignorance which prevails among the people. The Lieutenant Governor has noticed these points *seriatim*. Emigration is the remedy for over-populatien, but the number of emigrants from the districts comprising the Patna Division seems yearly to decrease, falling from 7,159 in 1874-75 to 4,482 in 1876-77. Not a single emigrant was last year recruited from Sarun, which is the most densely populated tract in the whole division. The district officers believe that it is only gradually, with the spread of education and removal of ignorant prejudices, that any general tendency to emigrate is likely to arise. There are, however, already signs that the opening of the Tirhoot Railway has done something to stimulate temporary emigration for the purpose of finding work, and it might be useful if the Colonial Governments would adopt Mr. Worsley's suggestion and send to Behar, as recruiting agents, their most successful Behari settlers. As for the *ticcadari* system the Government has already set its face against it, but the reform of that system is the work of time. The Indigo Planters have generally come forward to second the Lieutenant-Governor's desire for reform. Mr. Eden gladly acknowledges that "a very considerable step towards placing matters on a sounder basis has already been taken, and that his proposals for reforming the old system have been met by the planters in a cordial and conciliatory spirit. Indeed he sees every reason to believe that they recognize the fact that, if the Indigo trade is to continue, it can only be by a greater recognition of the rights and interests of those who actually grow the crop." The trade in Saltpetre, His Honor remarks, has developed considerably in North Behar during the last two years. The profits of the trade seem, however, to be monopolised by the refiners, who buy the crude article from the Nooniahs at Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 per maund, and sell it, after a cheap process of refining, at Rs. 8 in Calcutta. The Nooniahs themselves are a poor and miserable class, earning little more than Rs. 4 per month. The restrictions on the sale of the coarse salt evolved in the manufacture of saltpetre have materially injured their condition. Mr. Macdonnell, however, believes that even now much salt is illicitly passed into consumption from the Nooniah's works. The Lieutenant-Governor having recently examined this question, came to the conclusion that there has been no adequate gain to the revenue from the maintenance of the costly and irritating preventive establishments now employed, and has recommended to the Government of India their entire withdrawal. The evil effects of partition are acknowledged by the Lieutenant Governor. In Tirhoot alone partition added 1,138 estates to the rent-roll. Mr. Worsley explains that the indigo *(ticcadari)* system is largely to blame for this. A shareholder leases his share to a factory, the factory endeavours to seize all the *zerat*, and the other shareholders are driven to partition in self-defence. In 1850 there were only 5,039 estates on the Tirhoot rent-roll; in 1860 only 6,342; but in 1875 there were 15,117. In Mozufferpore there are now 10,815 and 6,767 in Durbhunga; 2,052 estates in the former district paying only Rs. 4,504 Government revenue between them. In Durbhunga upwards of 50,000 owners have applied for registration under the new Act. These figures show the remarkable extent to which the sub-division of estates has been carried out, and there is every prospect of the process being continued. Coupling over-population with sub-division of property we find that while the people are multiplying fast, their ancestral acres, which used to support the family, are becoming small by degrees and beautifully less in the process of partition. As for the back-

wardness of Behar in the matter of education the Lieutenant Governor is fully alive to it and will notice it in reviewing the education report. The majority of the zemindars in Tirhoot are unfavourably mentioned, being described as grasping and oppressive to their tenantry. There were, however, no instances of glaring misconduct there or in other districts, while some few of the higher class of landlords in the division distinguished themselves by public benefactions. Among these Maharani Rajroop Koer of Tikari, the Rajahs of Bettiah and Ramnuggur, and Baboo Futteh Bahadoor are specially mentioned. The Maharajah of Doomraon continues to display his usual liberality, and the Dulhin Saheb, co-partner of the Rajah of Bettiah, is also noticed as taking a great interest in female education The Lieutenant-Governor thus concludes his Resolution:

"There are in Behar many intelligent and wealthy landholders, and it is for them to consider whether it is not to their advantage to meet this movement half way, and endeavour to establish permanent occupancy rights and security of tenure on their estates, and to check at once the system of treating the cultivators of the soil as mere squatters, liable to eviction, and rack-rented at the whim of the proprietors or amlah—a system which now exists on too many estates. Nothing can tend so much to the prosperity of an estate as good, well-to-do, and contented tenantry, having a permanent interest in the soil, and it is for the landholders to establish such a state of things before the growing discontent and increasing intelligence of the people leads to open rupture between zemindars and ryots. The system of irregular distraint has been carried to great extremes in some parts of Behar, and the Lieutenant-Governor trusts the Commissioner will impress upon the Collectors the necessity of putting a stop to this cautiously and gradually, confining the zemindars to the procedure laid down by law. No doubt the conditions under which the people of Behar hold their lands are exceptional, and the Lieutenant-Governor has already intimated his readiness to consider if necessary exceptional legislation for this part of the country in the matter of such collection."

But the remedy for the evils indicated does not lie entirely in the hands of the zemindars. Special measures are needed for the protection of the people.

PROSPECTS OF CROPS AND PRICES IN BENGAL.

IT HAS not ended as it began. The want of closing showers has done great damage to the crops in Bengal. We give the following summary of weather and crop reports from the last *Calcutta Gazette*, which have been received from the districts up to the 3rd instant. Burdwan has been unfortunate for a series of years, and the present year has proved of the usual run. The outturn of the *amun* crop we read may now be estimated with some definiteness at from 8 to 10 annas. Rain would now affect it but little. For the winter sowings rain is much wanted. Fever is still prevalent and cholera is reported from some parts of the district. In Hooghly the prospects are bad, though slightly better than those of Burdwan. The official reporter says, "the prospects of the late rice remain unchanged. One immediate shower is necessary to ensure a full crop." And that shower has not fallen. On the other hand insects are destroying the crops in many places in the district of Hooghly. In Beerbhoom the prospects of the late rice remain unchanged. In Midnapore the situation is the same as before, *i. e.* very good crops in some places, and short crops in other places. In Howrah rain is much wanted on the high lands for the *dhan*, which has in some places been much damaged by the recent drought. The low lands have an excellent crop, but rain would do them good also. Of all the western districts Bankurah seems to be the best off. There the prospects of the crops are said to be very good, though a little more rain would be useful. In 24-Pergunnahs the prospects of the crops continue satisfactory, but rain would do good, especially to the crops on the higher lands. The cold-weather crops are being sown in many places. In this district insects are also injuring the crops. In Nuddea no rain, though the sky is often cloudy. The cold-weather crops are being sown, and their prospects are not unfavorable. The late rice is generally reported to be in pretty good condition, but rain is urgently required. There is a good deal of sickness in Kishnaghur and in other parts of the district. In Jessore we are glad to learn the prospects of the crops are everywhere good, except in Bagirhat, where it is said more rain is much wanted, as well as in some parts of Magoorah. In Moorshedabad the *amun* rice promises well, but want of rain will prevent it being a full crop on the higher lands. Sowings for the spring crops are general. Mulberry and sugarcane are in good condition. There is a good deal of sickness about Berhampore and the thannas of Nowada and Burwa, where cholera also has made its appearance. Elsewhere the public health is fairly good. In Dinagepore the winter rice is coming to ear. There is no lack of moisture in the planted lands. Much high land, however, remains unplanted. The jute in the north has been good, with 16 annas outturn, and the *bhadoi* crops have yeilded only 10 annas from want of moisture. Sugarcane is promising well. In Rajshaye clouds appear now and then, but no rain. The condition of the winter rice is satisfactory; if there is a shower of rain the outturn will be good. *Til* and *kalai* also are very fair. The sowing of cereals continues. A few cases of cholera have been again reported. In Rungpore no rain, but the state and prospects of the crops continue most favourable. Public health is good for this time of the year. In Bogra rain has fallen, which will do good to the crops. Fever is prevalent, especially in Panchbibi and Badalgachi, and cholera in Bogra, Shariakandi, Dhoonat, Modhoopore, Khetlal, and Dhoopchanchia. In Pubna more rain is wanted for the *amun* crop. The state and prospects of *rubee* crops are good. Fever is still prevalent in Pubna town and cholera in Serajgunge. The prospects of the crops throughout the Darjeeling district are good. In the district of Julpigori the *amun* crop is good. The jute harvest is over; the crop has not proved a very good one. Transplantation of tobacco has commenced. Land is being prepared for mustard; *kalai and til* are doing tolerably well. Public health is bad. Cattle disease is prevalent in the interior. In Cooch Behar some rain is wanted for the *haimunti dhan*, though it may do harm to the cold-weather crops. Fields are being actively prepared for mustard seeds. The transplanting of tobacco seedlings has not yet fairly commenced. Public health is generally good. In Dacca slight rain has fallen in some parts, but more is wanted. The state and prospects of the crops are favourable. In Furreedpore the want of rain has proved disastrous. It would be too late to be of much service to the rice now on the ground, which it is said cannot be expected to yield more than an eight anna crop at the outside. In Backergunge, the granary of Bengal, rain is greatly wanted, and in the absence of it the crops are assuming a stunted and semi-withered appearance. As yet damage has not, however, been done. In Mymensing the prospects of the crops are satisfactory generally. In Tipperah the rain that has fallen has been very beneficial to the rice sown on high lands. The prospects of the winter rice crop are excellent. In Chittagong the late transplantings want some rain; the rest of the *amun* crop is promising well. In Noakholly the *amun* crops are progressing very favourably. The cultivation of vegetables and other cold-weather crops on high ground is going on. The rivers fell early this season. The water has receded, and the country is drying up unusually quickly and early. The reports from the Patna and Bhaugulpore Divisions are as follows:

Patna.—Weather—hot during the day. Mornings and evenings cool. Rice would be better for a little more rain on high lands. The *rubbee* sowings are still going on. The prospects of both crops continue favourable.

Gya.—Weather—cloudy and moderately cool. Maximum thermometer in the shade 91·4o. Prospects are unchanged. Taking account of tracts irrigated by the canal and otherwise, average outturn in the Aurungabad sub-division of the *khurreef* crop is estimated at from seven to eight annas.

Shahabad.—No rain throughout the district. The weather has been a little warmer than in previous week though nights and mornings are fairly cool. In Sasseram the *rubbee* has germinated well, and a little rain would be beneficial; sugarcane is very good everywhere. Buxar reports the *rubbee* sowings uncompleted; rain is wanted for the *dhan* crops where not near canals. In Bhubooah the *rubbee* sowings are safe; the *aghani* crops have died of drought, and are being used as fodder; sugarcane is good everywhere. In the Sudder sub division the *rubbee* is coming up well; sugarcane is plentiful and excellent near canals. Public health is generally good.

Durbhunga.—The prospects of the winter rice are unchanged since last report. The *rubbee* sowings are progressing.

Mozufferpore.—Weather—cool and clear. There is no change to report in the prospects of the rice crop. The *rubbee* sowings are progressing well.

Sarun.—Weather—clear mornings and evenings, nights cool, but the temperature is higher than it should be. The prospects of the crops remain unchanged. Sugarcane and *rahur* are good. Public health is good.

Chumparun.—No rain anywhere. Generally bright, but with intervals of cloudy, somewhat blighting, unhealthy weather. The prospects of the crops are bad, except along the north boundary, in the far west, and in a very small part in the east. In other parts the rice is withering on the high lands, and is much too dry in places to get the ear filled. Ten or twelve annas of rice are estimated in a small part, four annas again, or less, in other parts; generally, hardly half a crop is expected. The soil is hardly better than dust on most of the *rubbee* fields. Much fever about.

Monghyr.—Weather—hot and unseasonable. Rain threatened, but did not come. The prospects are at present good. There will be eight annas crops abroad.

Bhagulpore—Return not received.

Purneah.—Weather—seasonable. The *aghani* prospects are very good. *Koorthi* and *arhur* are growing well. Ploughing for *rubbee* sowing are progressing favourably.

Maldah.—Weather—hot for the time of year. Unless more rain falls the *haimunti* on the higher lands will not exceed 12 annas. Fever is very prevalent.

Sonthal Pergks,,—Weather—cloudy, but no rain. The prospects of the crops still continue good all round.

The prospects of the Orissa districts are upon the whole not quite unfavourable. In Cuttack the late rain has done much good and relieved much anxiety. In some parts to the north and east more rain is wanted. As a whole, the reports of the crops are favourable. In Pooree the rice crops on high lands and on some low lands have in some places in the Khoordah sub-division been reported to be suffering seriously. The state of the crops in the Pooree sub-division is more gloomy than that reported last. A good shower of rain is needed almost everywhere. Cattle disease is reported. In Balasore no rain has fallen south-east where a quarter of the rice crop is reported to have been already destroyed by drought, and more will be lost if rain does not fall soon. In the rest of the district the harvest will be fair. Public health is good. In Chotta Nagpore the slight fall of rain has not done much good; in Lohardugga an average crop is expected; in Singbhoom the prospects are generally fair; in Manbhoom the situation is not favourable. It will be thus seen that where the closing showers have not fallen, the crops on the high lands have generally suffered.

The high prices, which were ruling lately, are still firm. We have compiled the following comparative table from the last official *Gazette*:

	RICE, COMMON. Present return.	RICE, COMMON. Corresponding return of last year.		RICE, COMMON. Present return.	RICE, COMMON. Corresponding return of last year.
BENGAL.			Furreedpore ..	14 0	30 0
Western Districts.			Backergunge...	12 0	23 0
	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	Mymensingh...	17 0	27 0
Burdwan ...	18 0	25 0	Chittagong ...	13 0	18 0
Bankoora ...	20 0	30 0 to 37 8	Noakholly ...	14 0	18 0
			Tipperah ...	14 8	30 0
Beerbhoom ...	16 8	25 0	Hill Tipperah..	16 0	35 0
Midnapore ..	20 0	36 0	BEHAR		
Hooghly ...	13 0	22 0	Patna ...	15 0	19 0
Howrah	13 0	20 0	Gya ..	15 0	19 0
Central Districts.			Shahabad ...	14 0	20 0
Calcutta	12 0	18 0	Durbhunga ...	14 12	17 8
24-Pergunnahs.	9 12	18 4	Mozufferpore...	12 0	15 8
Nuddea ..	13 5	20 0	Sarun ...	11 8	19 0
Jessore ...	14 0	26 10	Chumparun ...	14 0	22 0
Moorshedabad	14 0 to 19 0	23 0	Monghyr ...	15 7	23 1
			Bhagulpore ...	15 2	18 15
Dinagepore ...	24 0	30 0	Purneah ...	20 0	32 0
Rajshahye ...	18 0 to 19 0	24 6 to 30 0	Maldah ...	20 0	25 0
			Sonthal Pergns.	14 0	21 0
Rungpore ...	18 0 to 22 8	25 10	ORISSA.		
			Cuttack ...	15 12	24 15
Bogra ...	18 4	25 4	Pooree ...	13 2	24 0
Pubna ...	16 0	28 0	Balasore ...	13 0	30 0
Darjeeling ..	10 0	11 0	CHOTA NAGPORE		
Julpigoree	15 3	16 0	*South-Western Frontier Agency*		
Eastern Districts.			Hazareebagh ...	19 0	24 0
Dacca ...	16 0	25 0	Lohardugga ..	16 0 to 24 0	26 0 to 35 0
			Singbhoom ...	32 0	40 0
			Manbhoom ...	22 0	26 0

We doubt whether there will be a sensible fall in price owing to short crops in many districts.

TAKE CARE OF DOWB!

ANOTHER job, and this time Bombay is the scene of the plot. A brother-in-law of a Bombay Judge has been pitchforked into a snug appointment, and the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Press are loud against the jobbery At a late meeting of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce the Chairman said:

"There is one reason why the Chamber of Commerce holds an exceptionally important position in this country, and it is because there are so few outlets for the expression of independent opinion, and I think that in these days of autocratic tendencies on the part of the executive it is important that societies which give encouragement to free and open criticism should be kept up." This is exactly the value of independent Associations and a free press in this country. They constitute Her Majesty's Opposition. Highly as we value the benevolent intentions of our Government, the beneficial influence of an enlightened and independent public opinion upon it cannot be denied. The attention of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce has lately been directed to the state of things in the Official Assignee's Office. In their last report the Committee of the Chamber state," it was notorious that of late years the office of Official Assignee at this Presidency had been practically a dead letter: dividends on insolvent estates were rarely declared, even in cases where funds had been realized, and this apparently from no other cause than the indolence or neglect of the Official Assignee; and it had been a constant cause of complaint in mercantile circles that creditors could obtain no information from him touching the affairs of their insolvent debtors, although such information had been frequently applied for." They "drew the serious attention of Government to the great encouragement which this office so conducted gave to fraudulent debtors to pass through the Insolvent Court, and successfully conceal their property; and they suggested that the person to be appointed should be required to devote his whole time to the duties of his office, that he should be well acquainted with business in Bombay, and thoroughly understand accounts, and that a person with these qualifications, and having some knowledge of law, should be preferred." They also said that it was desirable, specially after what had happened, that an "auditor should be appointed to examine regularly the accounts of the Official Assignee, and the money and securities in his hands." The local Government replied that the patronage must still rest in the same hands as before. Nothing was said in answer as to the manner in which the patronage had been previously administered, but as Government promised to forward the Committee's remarks for the consideration of the Chief Justice, who had the gift of this important post, it was naturally believed, says the *Times of India*, that his Lordship would listen to the request of the leading commercial men of the Presidency, and appoint some one well acquainted with business in Bombay, and with a thorough knowledge of accounts. But they were disappointed. Our contemporary remarks: "There has, according to the Chamber of Commerce, been neglect and alleged defalcation in the accounts. An auditor was asked for in the future; no auditor has ever been appointed to render an account of the past. This official indifference to commercial interests is simply monstrous. Any Bombay business firm who declined to have their books audited would cease to be regarded with much confidence. Any similar office in England would certainly have an auditor among its staff; and even in Calcutta the Official Assignee's Office is provided with an auditor as a matter of course. If it be said that in Bombay the present Assignee is as far above all suspicion as Cæsar wished his wife, we most cordially assent; but still we cannot help looking back to a time when the previous Assignee was above suspicion too; and we cannot help remembering that the purest Official Assignee must necessarily have a staff of assistants and subordinates. Such checks, as the audit of accounts were not invented as insults, and they are never unnecessary. The state of things in the late Assignee's Office was for long notorious in commercial circles; and after his death, and the scandal evoked by it, hard things were spoken of those who, through carelessness or neglect, had placidly consented to let matters drift on. At present we are justified in saying that public confidence in the integrity of the office has to be restored, before the errors of the past can be altogether forgotten. The Chief Justice has had the opportunity of restoring this confidence, and he has not cared to seize it." The *Times of India* plainly threatens that "if the local Government cannot, or will not, help us, the Bombay Chamber of Commerce has, as Mr. Donald Graham says, means for the expression of independent opinion here, and it has also ample means, in the co-operation of all the Chambers of Commerce with which it is allied, of bringing the matter to the notice of commercial and legal opinion in England as well as in India." The criticisms of the Chamber and the *Times of India* have produced one effect—they have evoked a letter to the latter from the judge of the High Court, Mr. Justice Green. It is admitted by Mr. Green that "any holder of the office in question should according to the opinion expressed in the report, 'be required to devote his whole time to the office that he should be well acquainted with business in Bombay, and thoroughly understand accounts,' and that a person with those qualifications and having some knowledge of law should be preferred." But, he remarks, "such a person, having regard also to the fact that such accounts as Bombay insolvents produce are almost invariably in the native language, is not by any means easily found. Then it must be remembered that of late the emoluments of the office have very greatly decreased, and I believe I am correct in stating that during the last two years they have not averaged more than Rs. 600 a month. In the absence of a fixed salary, and having regard to the actual average emoluments of the last two years, I should be surprised to hear that there are many persons in Bombay possessing the requisite qualifications to whom such an office would be an object of desire, unless taking the office with the hope of something better in future, as of course one belonging to the legal profession might do." The *Times of India* replies: "We are anxious to avoid personalities, but Mr. Justice Green's charge of disingenuousness compels us to reply that, though Mr. Turner the new Assignee, may be a prodigy of industry, though, as we all grant, his character is above suspicion, his appointment was not a fair answer to the reasonable request of the Chamber. He is not a Bombay business man in the sense they meant: he can scarcely yet have a thorough knowledge of commercial accounts, and he cannot have much time to spare to his duties as Official Assignee. Even the late Official Assignee, with all his errors, was supposed to give his whole time to the office. But here we have Mr. Turner drawing Rs. 500 per mensem as Assistant Commissioner for Taxing Accounts; and also drawing a salary of Rs. 600 per mensem as Official Assignee. This is contrary to all custom, and contrary, too, to the spirit, if not the meaning, of the Act. If it is difficult, as Mr. Justice Green suggests, to obtain efficient service for such a sum as Rs. 600 per mensem, a case is made out for the increase of the fees on which that salary depends. The discredit into which the office has fallen, the late scandalous exposure, as well as the arrears of work, all render efficiency the one thing we must insist upon having." Exactly so. If a good man could not be had for the present emolument, it ought to be raised, but public interests ought not to be sacrificed for the sake of expense. As for auditing the accounts there cannot be two opinions on the subject. If the Calcutta accounts are audited why should not the Bombay accounts be similarly audited? The Calcutta High Court passed the following rule on the subject so far back as 1869: "The Chief Justice shall, from time to time, appoint an auditor or auditors to examine half-yearly, that is to say, up to 31st day of January and 31st day of July in every year, the statement which the Official Assignee is required, by Rule 16 of the Rules of the Insolvent Court, to publish in the *Calcutta Gazette* and the accounts of the Official Assignee. The auditor or auditors so appointed shall examine the said statement and the accounts of the Official Assignee, and shall report thereon to the Chief Justice. Such fee, not exceeding Rs. 1,000 for each audit, as the Chief Justice shall consider reasonable, shall be paid to the auditor or auditors and charged rateably to the several estates in proportion to the dividends paid out of such estates, respectively, during the half-year for which the accounts are audited." The state of the accounts in the Bombay Assignee's office has been long a scandal. We hope the Judges of the High Court, who generally take a high moral ground in contesting with Government, will set an example in their own persons.

INDIAN IMMIGRANTS FOR FIJI.

THE reader will perhaps be surprised to learn that there is a demand for Indian labourers in the islands of Fiji. The Governor, Sir Arthur Gordon, who was formerly Governor of the Mauritius, has recorded a minute calling attention to the increasing difficulty in procuring an adequate supply of Immigrant Polynesian Labour for agricultural service in the Colony from the New Hebrides and Solomon Islands. From every quarter reports have come of the disinclination of the natives of those Islands to engage for service in Fiji, and although different causes for that disinclination are assigned by different parties, there seems to be a general agreement as to the main fact of its existence. Sir Arthur Gordon is of opinion that, as a general rule, and with but very few exceptions, the treatment of Polynesian Immigrants in Fiji by their employers is kind, considerate, and equitable, and that those who assert that the hesitation of the natives of the Western Groups to come to Fiji arises from ill-treatment met with by them in the Colony—(and that such is the case has been asserted by high authority)—are altogether in error. His Excellency believes the chief causes of the undeniable reluctance of Polynesians to engage for Fiji, to be the dilatory and uncertain manner in which those whose term of service has expired have been returned to their homes, and the small amount of remuneration given to the labourer, as compared to what he can obtain in Queensland. His Excellency considers it expedient that the true cause of a state of things likely to affect so injuriously the industrial interests of the Colony should be carefully investigated and fully ascertained; and is, therefore, of opinion that an enquiry into the circumstances, which threaten the continuance of Polynesian Immigration, should be made on the spot by a competent and unprejudiced agent. A sum of £500 has been voted to defray the expenses of such a mission of enquiry. The events of the last six months have strongly confirmed His Excellency's previous conviction that it is hazardous in the extreme for the planters of the Colony to rely exclusively on so manifestly precarious a supply of labour as that previously referred to, and that Polynesian Immigration must henceforth be supplemented, if not ultimately superseded, by immigration from other quarters, especially from India. His Excellency has directed a comparative table of the probable approximate annual cost to the planter of Polynesian and Indian labour respectively, to be laid before the Board. When it is remembered that the services of the Indian Immigrant are secured to his employer for five years; that he is not entitled to a return passage to India, until after ten years' residence in the Colony; and that, as a fact, the right is usually claimed by only some twenty-five per cent. of the number introduced, the Governor believes it will be found that the Indian is really a cheaper labourer than the Polynesian, even if the wages of the latter be maintained at their present low rate. If those wages be raised to the same amount as is now usually paid in Queensland (and almost every planter with whom His Excellency has conversed on the subject, admits that this is inevitable, if immigration from Western Polynesia is to continue at all), His Excellency is convinced that Indian Labour is not only that which may most surely be depended upon, but also, in the long run, the cheapest which can be obtained. His Excellency accordingly proposes to try Indian Immigration as a tentative measure. He would at present indent some 400 or 500 Indian labourers. It has been resolved to despatch the Agent-General of Immigration to Calcutta, to effect arrangements with the Indian Government, and, if necessary to proceed to London to obtain the ratification of those arrangements by Imperial Authority. The following table shews the comparative cost of Polynesian and Indian immigrants:

Cost of Polynesian Immigrants per Adult per annum on contract of three years.

Cost of introduction at £10 ℔ adult ¼ of £10 = £3 6s. 8d. ℔ annum ...	3	6	8
Cost of return of 90 % of those introduced at £3 ℔ adult = £2 14s. ¼ of £2 14s. = 18s. ℔ annum ...	0	18	0
Wages at present	3	0	0

Ration, 2 555lbs. of yams, at £3 ₱ ton	3	2	6
4 sulus and 2 mats	0	7	6
	£10	14	8

Cost of Indian Immigrants for contract of five years per Adult.

Cost of introduction, £20 for five years.			
1-5th of £20 = £4 for one year.			
¾ of £4 = £2 13s. 4d. to be paid by planter	2	13	4
Cost of return passage of 25 % of those introduced at £16 ₱ adult.			
¼ of £16 = £4 for five years.			
1-5th of £4 = 16s. ₱ annum.			
¾ of 16s. = 10s. 8d. payable by planter..	0	10	8
Wages (average) including rations ₱ adult	10	10	0
	£13	14	0

From the above it appears that the Indian labourer will cost £2 19s. 4d. more than the Polynesian Immigrant, but if the wages of the Polynesian are raised to £6, as in Queensland, the Indian will cost the same as the Polynesian. It needs be borne in mind as observed above that after the Indian has served his industrial residence of five years he has to remain a further period of five years in the Colony, and in fact in most colonies where he finds any remunerative employment, remains from ten to twenty years. The Government have granted a sum of £5000 to aid in the introduction of 1000 adults from Polynesia during the present year. Taking this at £5 per adult for three years, it gives ⅓ of £5=£1 13s. 4d., per annum, from general revenue, per adult. If the approximate cost of the introduction and return of the coolie is £20 + ¼ of £16=£24, for ten years; 1-10th of £24=£2 8s., per annum, of which the general revenue will be called on to pay ¼ of £2 8s.=16s., per annum. Some of the planters it would seem are opposed to Indian Immigration. They urge that the cost will be very heavy. Thus the estimate for the Polynesian laborer includes £3 10s. for rations, sulus, and mats, in addition to the yearly wage of £3 or £6. as the case might be; while the Indian is to receive £10 10s, which comprehends the whole cost of his wages, clothing, and subsistence. The lowest ration for the Indian laborer will be 1½lbs. of rice daily, for which 2lbs. of maize meal may be substituted, occasionally; and, monthly, 2lbs. of dholl, or beans; 1lb. of ghee, or some suitable substitute; 2lbs. of salt fish, and 1lb. of salt. At the lowest possible calculation this will cost five pence per diem, or £7 12s. 1d. per annum, leaving the sum of £2 17s. 11d for clothing, mats, &c., &c. If the native laborers can be procured in Fiji in sufficient number, by all means engage them, but if they wont leave their home and work on the plantations, there is no help for it. It is upon this ground that Sir Arthur Gordon recommends his scheme for Indian Immigration.

FAMINE RELIEF IN MADRAS.

THERE seems to be an impression abroad that because rain has fallen the Famine is over in Madras, and it is not therefore necessary to raise more funds. This is a grievous mistake. The Famine sufferings we are sorry to say have not ceased. Because there has been rain, it does not necessarily follow that distress has disappeared. The crops will not grow up like Minerva full blown; in fact the crops sown in September will not ripen till February, and how are the poor cultivators to carry on culture and to live in the meantime? This is the most important point for consideration. The Government is breaking up relief camps, because of the exodus of the laborers to their fields, but they need greater assistance while they are usefully employed at home. We are glad to observe that this question engages the attention of the Madras Relief Committee Mr. Ballard, a member of the Executive Committee, has recorded a valuable minute on the subject. He writes:

"Non-interference with Government relief has all along been strongly insisted on by Government and desired by the Committee. After the G. O., of 24th September last it was understood that Government particularly desired that Famine Relief Funds should not be given (without the most careful discrimination) to persons who had previously been on Government relief but who under the action or spirit of that order ceased to be relieved. Numbers who were struck off village dole, and discharged from open camps, and small relief works, refused to go to close camps or large relief works at a distance from their villages. It was argued that to support or assist these people from Famine Relief Funds to any great extent would tend to defeat the purposes of Government.

But if this large class, and the distressed still receiving Government relief are eliminated, it seems clear that a comparatively small number of distressed will remain, save amongst the lower middle or poor agriculturists proper, *i. e.*, amongst the ryots.

It seemed that large numbers of these if not actually starving (though instances of starvation were not wanting) were in very poor physical condition, whilst still larger numbers were bereft of all means of carrying on agricultural operations.

It was felt that if these could be reached *in time* many would be kept from the necessity of leaving their homes for Government works. Many would be enabled to cultivate their fields, sensibly helping towards increasing the food supplies of the country, and that thus by helping them liberally with money from Famine Relief Funds an amount of direct and indirect benefit would be done not only individually but collectively which could hardly be achieved in by an other way. The relief to the agriculturists must be given *now* That to other classes can be extended over the time that pressure lasts. The communications the Committee have received from Government Officers, private individuals, Missionaries, &c., show remarkable consensus of opinion that relief could be most efficiently given by distributing *largely* to the agricultural population.

But all that *the money should be put in the hands of the people with the least possible delay.*

* * * *

I therefore intend proposing at next Meeting as formal resolution,

That the full allotments to agriculturists (generally puttadars under Rs. 50) entered at p. 5 of the Weekly Report, No 5, (deducting allotments aggregating Rs. 1,000 or upwards in any case) be sent out to the respective Local Committees forthwith with injunctions to arrange individual distribution in the Taluks with the least possible delay.

That 25 per cent. of the allotments to non-agriculturist (with similar reservation as to sums already sent) be also out at once to the Local Committees with intimation that balance are available to make them further similar remittances, that these further remittances will be made in communication with the Local Committees but that this committee requests it may be borne in mind that casual assistance may be required to relieve distress till January or February.

I am only too well aware that the agricultural season may almost be considered as passed in some places and is rapidly passing everywhere. Still in my humble opinion a more efficient use of our funds cannot be made.

The Resolutions proposed by Mr. Ballard were agreed to, and a third added in the following terms:—"The General Committee, whilst indicating the above proportion of distribution, do not wish to bind the Local Committees by any hard and fast line. The General Committee leave to the Local Committees, and look to them to exercise, a judicious discretion in making actual distribution both in regard to classes of the population and in regard to individuals."

The Committee state in their last report that the task of organizing Local Committees, Sub-Committees, and Agencies is now complete, and the two gentlemen who went on Deputation have returned to Madras. Their labours have been successful, where Committees were already in existence the Delegates have been useful in stimulating and directing action, particularly with regard to the out-lying taluqs, whilst, where no Committee formerly existed, good working bodies of Members have been formed. The consequence is that, speaking generally, there is not a taluq in the whole of the distressed Districts which is not, more or less completely, feeling the benefit of the unexampled generosity of England, the Colonies, and some Continental countries, in the latter being included France which has subscribed through the Catholic Missionaries, and Germany and Switzerland which have sent nearly Rs. 40,000 to the Basel Missionaries who labour in the western portion of the Madras Presidency and the southern districts of Bombay. From the Kistna river to Cape Comorin most active relief operations are being proceeded with, some of the distributors labouring in their self-imposed task with much energy and sacrifice. One gentleman spent over a week in a bullock-cart visiting the distressed villages in a part of the region covered by the Committee to which he belonged, giving aid to those whose cases had been previously investigated, and making further enquiries himself. This solitary instance would need to be multiplied vastly if justice were done to the zeal and discretion with which the funds are distributed.

We will give a few extracts from some of the local reports to shew the nature of the distress prevailing in the afflicted districts. The Revd. Dr. Strachan thus writes about Vencatagiri:

"The Vencatagiri Zemindary is a large and wealthy one. It includes 731 villages and 617 hamlets and has a population of 300,620. The income from the estate amounts to about eight and a half lakhs per annum. The Zemindar (Rajah) pays to Government, four lakhs and seventy-five thousand rupees annually. I mention these figures because I am told that though this last sum has been paid regularly to Government, for the last two years very little has been paid into the Rajah's treasury by the ryots. If this be true then the Rajah himself has had to endure considerable loss by the Famine, I was informed that from the beginning of the Famine about one-third of the people in this Zemindary had died—a truly frightful mortality; and that many had migrated. In the town of Vencatagiri there are about 6,000 inhabitants, 2,000 of whom are Brahmins. About 1,000 of these are small landowners who have had to mortgage their property. and who I am told, are now in great distress. Eighty Brahmin families received daily rations for some time in the Vencatagiri relief camp, and these have now been stopped. I believe there is a good deal of genuine suffering in this Zemindary, and that a liberal grant of Funds could be well spent here.

The more I see of the present aspect of the famine, the more I am inclined to say first:—we must take care not to *create want*; that is, not to attract people who have no right to be claimants; second:—we need not be in too great a hurry to get rid of our money. I believe there will be more pressure felt in December than there is at present.

The state of affairs in Shivagunga Zemindari in Madras is exceptionally bad. A suit is now pending in the District Court as to the proprietorship of the Zemindary so that Government has been unable to grant a loan as in the case of other Zemindaries; and the people—there are some 240 villages—are simply perishing.

Away from the valley the distress is great. I heard of men and women being harnessed to their ploughs in place of their lost bullocks, and of other poor agriculturists, who not having even ploughs were seen dragging large branches of trees over their little plots of land. The recent excellent fall of rain has brought up all over the country a weed with a bulbous root, which although in ordinary years is only used in small quantities, owing to its unwholesomeness, is now being eaten largely by the poor, forming the staple of the only diet they can procure outside of the Government closed camps which appear to be as much disliked as is the "Workhouse" by the respectable poor at home."

Mr. Oldham, B. C. S., Divisional Officer, Adoni, writes:

"I now beg to describe particularly the persons to whom I referred. They were all women and children members of the lower middle class, most of them Mahomedans, and a few Brahmans and Rajaputs, and all belonging to the Town population. They were entirely unused to out-door work, so much so that most of them claimed to be "gosha." As however they would draw their water from the nearest well, no Relief officer could allow this claim; but, till late in this last disastrous season, many of them had never been farther in their lives. In June and July last they began to appear in small numbers on the works nearest the towns and were easily distinguishable as they sat huddled together, with their faces covered, not making a pretence of work, and even then treated with respect by the coolies in the gang. When spoken to by a Relief officer they generally got up and left the work without answering. Their male relations were generally of the class that takes service as peons, guards, petty overseers on works, or in shops and grain marts. On the 1st August there were 182,000 persons on the Relief works in Adoni, and the lower supervising establishment consisted of over 3,000 men, nearly all of the class described. By the 15th September these works had been completely closed, and this petty establishment dispensed with; and it was in this interval that the great majority of the women and children described came upon the hands of the State.

Under the G. O. of September the only way in which relief could be afforded to them was by giving them work on the roads at a distance from their houses. After discussing the matter with General Kennedy, I feel quite convinced that, for the Charitable Committees to undertake the Relief of such persons, would not be in any way to clash with the orders of Government. The bulk of the persons referred to had never been on works or transferred thence to gratuitous relief. When the Local Committee was first constituted here, it, of its own motion and without any suggestion on my part, proposed as its first object the relief of this class But, from the way in which the Central Committee's late resolution has been conveyed, and also from the fact that these persons had been recipients of State Relief, the Members of the Committee now all believe that their intentions with regard to the class are not approved. They are altering their plan of action accordingly, and it will require an authoritative expression of opinion from the Central Committee regarding the lower middle class poor in Adoni to set them right on the subject.

My own sympathies for the class referred to have always been alive ever since when, in 1866 and 1867, in Orissa, I frequently found skeletons of women belonging to it, and to a lower class still, wrapped in tattered clothing and with worthless ornaments on the fleshless bones, lying in their houses which they would not leave, even though the Relief Camps, then the only means of Relief resorted to, were within 3 or 4 miles. I hope that this fact, vouched for by an eye witness and one who was engaged in operations, may have its weight with the Central Committee."

The above are fair samples of the local reports which the Central Committee are receiving.

There is ample scope for the administration of relief, and the funds subscribed we have no doubt will be well spent. It is altogether wrong to say that the Famine is over, because rain has fallen, and the cultivators have returned to their fields.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

THE FOLLOWING is the latest telegraphic intelligence from Europe:

London, 10th November.—Ghazi Muktar Pacha has sent a telegraphic despatch to the Porte, stating that, at 4 A.M. yesterday, the Russians attacked the Turkish positions at Azizie. A severely contested engagement ensued, lasting till 2 P.M., and resulting in the Russians being defeated with very heavy loss. The Turks pursued their enemies for two hours, as far as Deveboyun; and the ditches along the route are described as being filled with the Russian dead.

At the Lord Mayor's banquet last night at the Guildhal, Earl Beaconsfield, returning thanks for Her Majesty's Ministers, alluded to the splendid example of national sympathy displayed by the people of England in coming forward, as they had done, for the relief of the sufferers by the famine in Southern India.

With reference to the Eastern Question, he said that England had never swerved for one moment from her policy of conditional neutrality, and neither the honor nor the interests of England required us to engage in the contest now raging. Our neutrality must, however, cease if British interests are assailed. Events have shown that the independence of the Ottoman Empire is indisputable. The noble Earl, in conclusion, counselled patience, and said he hoped soon that England in concert with the other Powers, would be able to secure the peace and independence of Europe.

WE HAVE received the following letter from Arrah dated the 10th instant:

"The Lieutenant-Governor arrived here yesterday morning, by the 7-53 *a.m.* Passenger Train, and was received at the Railway Station by the Civil authorities, and the gentry of the Station. After breakfast His Honor inspected the Jail, the Civil Courts, the Zillah School and the Collectorate. From 1 to 2 P.M., he received visits from the gentry of the Station. His Honor left this morning by Special Train for Behea on his way to Dehree. He had a kind word for all, and those that went to see him were very favorably impressed with his urbanity, amiability, and frankness."

WE HEAR that Sir Richard Temple is likely to pay a visit to Calcutta on the occasion of the new installations to the Star of India and other Orders on New Year's day. His Excellency will be decorated with the insignia of G. C. S. I. Calcutta will doubtless be glad to see again Sir Richard, though for a few days only.

WE ARE informed that a native gentleman of Krishnagur offered two silver medals, one to be awarded to the most successful Entrance candidate in the Nuddea district, and the other to the most successful candidate at the First Arts Examination in Bengal. The Entrance candidate after passing examination must study at the Krishnaghur College for the First Arts. These Medals will be awarded annually.

WE HEAR that His Honor the Lieutenant Governor has sanctioned Mr. Croft's proposals for the grading of the teachers in Government schools with modifications. According to the Director of Public Instruction the minimum initial salary, which would be covered by his scheme, was Rs. 30 per month, whereas His Honor has limited it to Rs. 50 on the ground that there are better prospects for promotion for teachers receiving salaries under Rs. 50 than for those above that sum. As the increment will be annual, may we enquire whether any distinction will be made in the period of service. Officers of long standing may be out of the service by the time they reach the maximum, and it would be but bare justice to them, if in consideration of their long service they were allowed the maximum salary at once.

WE ARE sincerely glad to learn that Ameer Khan, the victim of the miserable Wahabi plot, has been at last released. The man is verging on 90, and has not perhaps many more years to live. It would have been a real act of grace, if his punishment had been remitted much earlier. Hindus, Mahomedans, and Christians had in one voice submitted prayers to Government more than once for the remission of his sentence, but the authorities were inexorable. But at last the Government has been moved by mercy. It is stated that Mr. Eden had recommended his release on the Proclamation Day, but there was some influence at work, which frustrated his merciful recommendation. On the principle of better late than never we hail the act of grace shewn to Ameer Khan.

AN INCONVENIENT practice, it has been brought to our notice, has been introduced at the Nimtollah Burning Ghat. In two instances it has been mentioned to us the Burning Ghat clerk demanded from the persons, who carried corpses for cremation, to produce a Rate Bill before cremation was permitted. The object was probably to ascertain the number of the premises to which the deceased persons belonged. If any order has been passed on the subject by the executive, it ought to have been properly notified. The number of the premises is always given, but perhaps sometimes not correctly. But the practice would be attended with some inconvenience. In the first place when the house is in mourning the occupier is not in a frame of mind to produce the Rate Bill. In the second place the poor inhabitants of bustees, who are mere squatters, and do not pay rates direct, can not produce the bills. The matter ought to be carefully considered by the Commissioners.

THE LOSS of land revenue in Madras owing to the Famine is enormous. The following statement is given in a letter of the Government of Madras:

	Lakhs.
(*a*) The land-revenue current demand for the year 1876-77 was only ...	355
Compared with an average current demand of the three previous years of ..	449
(*b*) The total collections, current and arrears, for the year 1876-77 was only ...	278
Compared with a previous average of ...	449
(*c*) The actual remissions of the year 1876-77 are only ...	3
On account of the arrear demand: no remissions having yet been granted on the current demand.	
(*d*) The balances of the year 1876-77 are only ...	130
Compared with a previous average of ...	60

It thus appears that the deficiency in the land revenue collections amount to 449 *minus* 278 lakhs, that is, to 171 lakhs. This is one fruit of the crushing Ryotwary settlement in Madras. In permanently settled Bengal neither in 1866 nor in 1874 the State lost a pice in the shape of land revenue.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA has recorded the following Resolution on the subject of Lotteries:

On the 13th September last the Bengal Government forwarded a letter from the Commissioner of the Police at Calcutta, reporting that advertisements of lotteries and race-sweeps printed beyond the limits of Lower Bengal are sent in large numbers to hotels and other places of public resort in Bengal in contravention of section 294A of the Indian penal code, and that the proprietors of newspapers and other periodicals in Bengal complain bitterly that their columns are closed to notices and advertisements which are freely permitted elsewhere. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal considers that the present treatment of lotteries by the different local Governments is exceedingly unsatisfactory; in Bengal the law is strictly enforced, while in the Punjab and elsewhere, it is habitually broken with impunity, and news-papers are allowed to advertise and circulate proposals directly opposed to the provisions of the section of the code cited. His Honour is of opinion that if these lotteries and race-sweeps are mischievous, they should be put down by law, instead of being allowed to devolve themselves year by year; but that if they are considered to be a harmless amusement, the prohibitory clause in the penal code should be repealed, and lotteries should not be discouraged. His Honour himself considers them exceedingly mischievous.

The Government of India concur with His Honour's opinion as to the mischievous character of the lotteries and race-sweeps advertised, and believe that the mischief is year by year assuming greater dimensions. As the intention of the law on the subject is clear and as its provisions were intended to operate in one province as much as in another, the Government of India consider that the law should be uniformly enforced. Local Governments and Administrations are therefore requested to enforce the law after giving due notice thereof by publication of this Resolution in their several official Gazettes.

The law should certainly be uniform throughout the empire, but we must confess we do not see any moral objection in a lottery *per se*, so long as it is not tainted with fraud. What are time-bargains, which prevail everywhere? Are they not gambling?

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA will introduce an insurance of the value of registered covers from the next year. It is notified that on and after the 1st January 1878 registered letters and parcels may be insured for the actual value, as certified on them by the sender, for transmission by inland post. The facility for insuring registered letters and parcels will be made available at almost all post offices; the only exceptions being a few vernacular offices. The Government will guarantee to the sender the safe transit of insured registered letters and parcels, and will give compensation to him, within the insured value, for any actual loss occurring in transit from any cause whatsoever, except in certain cases. The charges for insurance will be as follows:

When the value certified does not exceed Rs.	10	...	1 anna,
"	"	"	"	25	...	2 annas,
"	"	"	"	50	...	4 "
"	"	"	"	75	...	6 "
"	"	"	"	100	...	8 "

and 8 annas for every additional rupees 100 or fraction thereof. This is a move in the right direction.

WE HAVE received complaints regarding outrages, which are said to be committed by loafers on the maidan. A correspondent of the *Indian Daily News* gives the following facts:

First.—Babu Bacharam Chatterjee, the worthy *Acharjya* of the conservative Brahmo Samaj, an intelligent and old man of position, while after his ministerial services was going through the maidan to his house at Behala had been waylaid by these ruffians. Most of them were Eurasians. They caught hold of his carriage, threw away the coachman, beat him severely, and snatched the money away. He cried for help, none came, the police, which was near, fled at this crisis. Thanks to the guardian of peace! The poor man was left with his gharry in the maidan.

Second.—Three children not exceeding ten years of age, the nephews of one Ramcharn Dutt, native medical practitioner residing at Ahiretola and a maid-servant, were also going to Behala in a hackney-carriage. They had also been treated in the same way even more cruelly and shamefully. They made the woman naked, took away the five rupees she had and beat her so hard, that we have heard she is now lain in a precarious state.

This is simply a scandal. We have no doubt the Deputy Commissioner of Police will make necessary enquiries into the matter and take vigorous measures for putting down the outrages.

THE LAST GAZETTE OF INDIA contains a Resolution on the Covenanted Medical Service. It has been recorded on a reference from the Government of Bengal. The Government of India says:

The Commissioned Medical Officers in the Military Department are all Members of organized Covenanted Services. The Government of India has authorised the appointment of Members of these Services to certain specified Civil Medical Charges and Appointments. These specified appointments are added to the List of Military Appointments for which provision is authorised, and the strength of the Commissioned Medical Services is regulated and maintained accordingly. Every addition to the List of Civil Medical Charges for which Covenanted Officers are authorised, involves an addition to the strength of one of the Commissioned Medical Services; and every reduction of that List involves a reduction of the strength of one of these Services.

The pay and pension of a Commissioned or Covenanted Medical Officer in Civil employ being higher than the pay and pension of an Uncovenanted Medical Officer, every addition to the List of Civil Medical Charges for which Commissioned Medical Officers are authorised, causes additional expense, and every reduction of this List produced a saving. Hence the orders to which the Government of Bengal has referred, favoring the extended employment of Uncovenanted, in place of Covenanted Medical Officers. The principle of these orders is still emphatically recognised: every curtailment of the List of Civil Medical Charges for which Commissioned Officers must be provided will be welcomed as conducive to economy, and no addition to this List will be allowed without the strongest evidence of necessity.

But, when once a Civil Medical Charge is enrolled in the List and provision is made for it by the necessary addition to the strength of one of the Commissioned Medical Services, it is impossible, except for very special reasons, to allow the appointment thereto of any one but a Commissioned Medical Officer. The appointment of an Uncovenanted Officer to an Office for which provision is made in the recruitment of one of the Commissioned Medical Services would be obviously unjust to the officers of this Service, and tend to produce organic inconveniences such as the Government is now finding it so difficult, and so costly, to remedy in the Covenanted Civil Service. It is an indispensable condition of the formation of every body of officers organised under convenant or commission, to fill certain offices, that the monopoly of these offices be jealously and rigidly preserved to them. Any departure from this course involves (1) injustice to the officers, and, as a consequence, well-founded, and, therefore, mischievous discontent among them; (2) needless expense for the pay of officers provided for offices otherwise filled.

But may we ask is it necessary to maintain a Covenanted Medical Service for Civil Medical charges? The Government of India admits that

it is expensive, and yet it insists that it should be maintained. A Covenanted Medical Service for the Army may be necessary, but the supply of medical officers for civil stations is so large that it would lead to considerable saving if the covenant were done away with. The Bengal Government deserves public support for protesting against wasteful expenditure in this direction.

THE FOLLOWING is a statement of the cash balances of the Government of India on the 30th September 1877 :

	1875. Rs.	1876. Rs.	1877. Rs.
Govt. of India ...	2,52,12,393	1,50,18,287	1,54,23,755
Bengal ...	2,49,15,187	1,16,87,331	1,27,90,562
Assam ...	33,47,611	23,16,637	19,86,728
British Burmah.	46,62,932	39,66,881	37,79,386
N.-W. Provinces.	1,73,71,553	1,89,09,162	1,23,89,655
Oudh ...	53,24,779	46,76,643	38,47,817
Punjab ...	1,22,58,385	1,15,45,175	1,03,57,321
Bombay ...	1,73,78,023	2,09,25,104	2,08,14,454
Central Provinces	40,59,749	38,40,362	42,16,964
Madras ...	2,28,30,774	1,45,21,248	1,66,37,097
TOTAL ...	13,43,61,376	12,76,97,830	10,25,39,239

The depletion of the treasuries is of course due to the Famine. We believe the Secretary of State will take power from Parliament as soon as it reopens in February next for raising a Famine loan for India.

THE "Zoo" at Alipore will probably remain an enduring monument of Sir Richard Temple's energy in the administration of Bengal. In the first place it has replaced the nasty bustis, which were an eye-sore and a nuisance. In the second place it has supplied a really lovely place for rational recreation to all classes of the community, rich or poor. We paid it a visit on Monday last, and were delighted to see that it has grown so rapidly. Although the collection of animals is comparative y small, still it is sufficiently varied and comprehensive, and the credit for it is greatly due to Mr. C. E. Buckland, Private Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, whose dunning letters had an electric effect. Mr. C. T. Buckland, the President, and Mr. Tobin, the Secretary of the Committee, also deserve honorable mention. The daily average of visitors is about 400, and the annual income from admission fees comes to about Rs. 20,000. The grounds, cells, and stalls are fairly kept, and the credit of this belongs to the native Superintendent of the Garden, Babu Rambrohmo Sanial, who is however paid only Rs. 75 a month. The stock of animals, we were glad to learn, is daily increasing.

YEAR BY YEAR the fairest parts of Bengal are decimated with the Epidemic Fever, and the authorities are content with "masterly inactivity". They act by fits and starts, make slovenly enquiries, and then allow the matter to drop. At this moment the once flourishing townships and villages on the banks of the Hooghly are simply abodes of disease and death. In every other house there is fever; the suffering is very great; the rate of mortality is also heavy. Those, who have means, are deserting their houses; there is a settled gloom over these unfortunate places. And yet nothing is done to prevent the periodic recurrence of this scourge. Most of these places have been blessed with Municipal Committees, but they serve only to extract money from the poor sufferers. The drainage of the villages is the problem of the hour, but who will solve it when the local authorities are so callous to death-cries? How long will this sad state of things continue, oh! Lord!

A MEMORIAL of a brave old soldier, belonging to that famous corps, known as Rattray's Sikhs, named Roldu Khan, late Subadar Major, has been laid before us. He began life as a private soldier, on a pay of 7 Rupees a month, in Rattray's Sikhs; during the Indian Mutiny, while serving with his regiment, he took part in the battles that were fought at Gya, Arrah, Patna, Jounpur, Gorruckpur, Kosma, Dinapore, Mandeo, Peeru, Chatra and several other places, and obtained a medal for his services, and was promoted to the rank of Jemadar on a salary of Rupees 30 a month. In 1862, he was transferred from the military to the Frontier Police Service. In January of that year, when Mr. M'cdonel, Surveyor, was deputed to survey the Lushai Hills, he was placed in command of the escort, consisting of 60 Sepoys and 6 Havildars, who were sent for the protection of that officer and his staff. On that occasion, when four *khalasis* under Mr. Pigot, who was Assistant to Mr. M'cdonel, were attacked and carried off by the Kookis, he went in search of them with four Sepoys, and brought them back without the loss of a single man; he likewise captured three Rajas and brought them to subjection. In 1867, when the Kookies made a raid, he took from them 92 stands of arms and made them over to the Deputy Commissioner. In 1871, he took part in the Lushai Expedition, and, for his services on that occasion, obtained a medal from the Government and a certificate from Mr. Lewin, the Deputy Commissioner. Such have been the services of this brave soldier. And yet he has been summarily dismissed for some alleged insubordination to Mr. Showers, the District Superintendent of Police, Chittagong, to which he was attached. The Police Officers under whom he served before speak very highly of him. "Mr. Rattray, District Superintendent of Police, Pubna, thus writes about him:—"He was a splendid soldier, much beloved and respected by his comrades, and admired by his superiors for his soldierly qualities. He was moreover a thorough Punjabi gentleman." Mr. Crouch, Officiating District Superintendent of Police, Rangamattee, says:—"I have known this officer (Roldu Khan) for some years. He is a very smart officer, and his dismissal at the present time is a great loss to the Police here." Captain Gordon, at present Tutor to the Maharaja of Durbhanga, remarks:—"I consider that at the time I speak of, you were the only native officer in the Force on whom thorough reliance could be placed, and who exercised any authority over the men under you, and this opinion I had formed after an intimate acquaintance with the character and the other qualifications of the whole of the native officers, in the Corps." Mr. Guise, Adjutant, says: "The bearer of this, Roldu Khan, late Subadar-Major of the Chittagong Frontier Force, is, without exception, the finest specimen of a native soldier I have ever met." We do not wish to enter into the merits of the Subadar-Major's case." Assuming that the charge of insubordination is correct the summary dismissal of a soldier, who had served the State so long, so well and so honorably is much to be regretted. Surely he might have been punished for his faults less rigorously. Perhaps it is not yet too late to temper justice with mercy.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette,—*November* 7, 1877.

GENERAL.—Mr. W. H. Verner, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the Second Grade, on furlough, is promoted to the First Grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, *vice* Mr. W. H. Grimley.

Mr. J. Scobell Armstrong, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, is appointed to be a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the Second Grade, *vice* Mr. W. H Verner. Mr. Armstrong will, however, continue to officiate until further orders as a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the First Grade.

Mr. W. M. Clay, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the Second Grade, on furlough, is promoted to the First Grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, *vice* Mr. G. L. T. Harris,

Mr. C. H. Vowell, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, on furlough, is appointed to be a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the Second Grade, *vice* Mr. W. M. Clay.

Mr. H. L. Dampier, C.S., a Member of the Board of Revenue, having reported his return from furlough on the 24th October 1877, is allowed subsidiary leave from that date to the 26th idem inclusive, to enable him to join his appointment.

The Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India has been pleased to grant extension of furlough for one week to Mr. W. J. Money, C.S.I.

Mr. J. E. B. Jeffery, C.S., is appointed to act until further orders, as Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the First Grade, and is posted to Backergunge.

The Services of Mr. B. G. Geidt, C.S., Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Burdwan, are placed at the disposal of the Government of India, in the Home Department.

The Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India has been pleased to grant extensions of leave of the following officers for the periods mentioned against their names:—

Surgeon-Major H. Cayley, four months.
" J. Ewart, M.D., five months.

Mr. C. H. Wood reported his departure from India on special leave on the 20th October 1877.

JUDICIAL.—The Cantonment Magistrate of Dinapore is relieved of his work as Small Cause Court Judge, so far as his jurisdiction lies without cantonment limits.

The Subordinate Judge of Patna will take up the Small Cause Court work of the Nizamut or extra cantonment jurisdiction.

Mr. F. E. Pargiter, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Chittagong, is vested with powers to try summarily the offences mentioned in Section 222 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,—BENGAL.—Baboo Lokenath Mitter, Overseer, Third Grade, attached to the Nuddea Rivers Division, is allowed privilege leave for one month and fifteen days in addition to the privilege leave already granted to him.

IRRIGATION.—Baboo Kali Churn Sen, Overseer, Third Grade, left the Arrah Division for Rajpootana on the forenoon of the 5th October 1877.

The following Notification of the Government of India, Public Works Department, is republished for information:—

Baboo Grish Chunder Dass, Overseer, First Grade, Arrah Division, is granted sick leave for three months in extension of the sick leave granted him in the orders marginally noted under Section 3, Supplement F of Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 20th September 1877.

Advertisements.

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The compilation is sure to be useful on account of the notes which are succinct, pertinent, and explicit, and which indicate much labor and research *Hindoo Patriot*, 27th August 1877.

Messrs. Sreenath Banerjee and Brothers have brought an edition of the new Code of Civil Procedure with one important feature which is sufficiently distinction to call for special favorable notice—*Indian Daily News*, 23rd August 1877.

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